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30P

# THE TIMES

No. 64,838

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

## Home sales poised for revival

# Britain looks to 1994 with new optimism

By Philip Bassett and Edward Gorman

**BUSINESS** leaders, economists and housing experts were last night confidently predicting a happy new year for the economy after more than three years in the doldrums.

Low inflation and interest rates, falling unemployment and a world trade deal have all contributed to a mood of optimism, and some analysts hope that a slow, steady recovery could finally break the boom-and-bust cycles of the Seventies and Eighties.

With share prices on nearly all the world's stock markets hitting record levels, the Institute of Directors described prospects as extremely encouraging, and the Halifax building society predicted a further revival in the housing market with a 5 per cent increase in prices.

Stephen Dorrell, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was equally confident, although he conceded that tax increases coming into effect in April would restrain the rate of recovery. He claimed that was part of deliberate government policy to prevent a boom that could get out of hand, telling BBC Radio: "What we

**■ Even with tax rises round the corner and ministers busily trying to prevent over-exuberance, financial experts are viewing 1994 with confidence**

do not want is a consumer recovery which gets out of control, which leads to inflationary boom and balance of payments difficulties of the kind we have seen in the past."

That attitude was endorsed by Neil Austin of the City advisers KPMG, who said: "There is a widely held view that we are entering a new era

Full employment is the goal for all Conservative employment secretaries, according to David Hunt, Secretary of State for Employment. His remarks appear to be the furthest a senior Conservative minister has yet gone towards embracing an idea of which even many opposition parties are wary." Page 32

of lower inflation and interest rates. Coupled with the success of the Gatt negotiations, this may well mean that we can look forward to a less cyclical future. This should help City confidence.

The Halifax also adopted a "safety first" approach in its annual review, saying: "The days of boom and bust in the UK housing market are hopefully ended and we are seeing a return to housing being a safe, if not spectacular, investment."

The society predicted that the number of people moving house next year would be 15 per cent up on 1993 and that prices would rise by about 5 per cent on top of the 2 per cent increase seen this year. That would still leave the number of transactions well below the norm for the buoyant 1980s, "but would indicate a return to more healthy levels of activity," the report said.

## Clinton names new Christopher deputy

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

STROBE Talbot, a former room-mate of President Clinton at Oxford who has been credited as the architect of America's policy towards Russia, is the new Deputy Secretary of State, with the specific task of bringing Washington's foreign policy into sharper focus. His nomination signals an increased determination by the President to counter persistent criticism over foreign policy, a drive that began earlier this month with the effective dismissal of Les Aspin as Defence Secretary.

Mr Talbot, 47, a former

columnist at Time magazine who was appointed ambassador-at-large responsible for policy towards Russia, replaces Clinton Wharton.

He beat three diplomats to the post: Thomas Pickering, ambassador to Moscow, Morton Abramowitz, head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. The choice was made by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.

Reshaping policies, page 8



Jackie Styles, from Poole, Dorset, bargain hunting among the wedding dresses reduced at the Liberty sale in London, which began yesterday. Bad weather reduced crowds, but High Street stores are hoping that the economic recovery will be reflected in top 'January sales' figures. Page 5

## War weary catch the Sarajevo freedom bus

In the gloom of a wintry morning, they trudged up to several miles through falling sleet and snow to what they hoped would be freedom.

Many had signed up for the convoy in the autumn of 1992, more than a year ago. Several times they had made the now-familiar, early-morning trek to the departure point, hoping it would be the last time they would have to run past snipers and duck incoming shells.

Over these past 21 months, each one had endured a personal nightmare. They had spent their time imprisoned in a jail where they had encountered death and suffering in many forms, and where they had learnt what it was like to live in the Middle Ages.

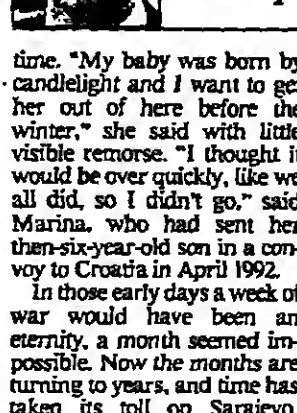
Yesterday was their 633rd day under siege, and for a chosen 800, their last. Women, children, the very old, and those too crippled to fight were the lucky ones bound yesterday from Sarajevo for Split in Croatia. One-third were Muslims, one-third Croats and one-third Serbs and "others" of mixed marriages. A second convoy, taking 150 Serbs to Serb-held territory and then Belgrade, was to leave after the first convoy arrived safely.

As the refugees boarded the buses at the gutted remains of Sarajevo railway station, tears were shed among relatives staying behind, but there were few from those departing.

Marina, 31, shielded from the bitter cold in a matching mink coat and hat, said her farewells to her sobbing parents. Those departing could take only two small bags, and most wore their best clothes.

Marina's husband, a soldier, stood quietly to one side, as his mother-in-law hugged her 14-month-old granddaughter, maybe for the last

**Joel Brand witnesses the emotional departure of the latest refugees lucky enough to escape from Sarajevo**



time. "My baby was born by candlelight and I want to get her out of here before the winter," she said with little visible remorse. "I thought it would be over quickly, like we all did, so I didn't go," said Marina, who had sent her then-six-year-old son in a convoy to Croatia in April 1992.

In those early days a week of war would have been an eternity, a month seemed impossible. Now the months are turning to years, and time has taken its toll on Sarajevo.

The UN evacuation team said it was not necessary. The doctor insisted. The UN then replied that it was against regulations and was not possible for the doctor to come along. Eventually he refused to authorise the dying child's evacuation unless they rescued him too. Even in Sarajevo, his behavior was unacceptable but still, everyone understood why he acted as he did.

As the buses left the station yesterday afternoon, there was still feeling against those lucky enough to be leaving.

People spat and muttered obscenities as they trudged along the slushy streets, past the cargo containers which shielded them from the snipers in the hills above the doomed city.

The cause is a low pressure area to the south-east of Australia. In Tasmania, roads have been cut by floods and roots blown off.

Only in Perth, in Western Australia, has Christmas lived up to tradition. The temperature has topped 100F, and beaches have been heaving with holidaymakers.

It is one of the more disconcerting aspects of Christmas here that seasonal decorations show Father Christmas sleighing through the snow. This year, however, he was dressed properly: it is those in T-shirts and zinc sun cream who are suddenly looking out of place.

Photograph, page 7  
Yacht race, page 17

## Youth arrested after safari 'therapy' trip

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A PROBLEM teenager has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving three days after returning from an 80-day "character building" tour of Africa at the expense of the taxpayers.

The youth, aged 17, managed to stay out of trouble for two days after the end of his £7,000 trip before being detained by police in Gloucester. He was breath tested by police on Monday and has been released on bail to report to Gloucester police station on February 2.

The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, re-

turned to the city on Christmas eve at the end of a 13,000-mile African tour that included visits to Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. His tour included cruising on the Nile, watching the sun rise over Mount Sinai and visiting the tombs of the pharaohs.

His trip was organised by the Bryn Melyn residential centre at Bala in North Wales, founded to provide challenging therapy for young people who have been abused or have criminal records. The youth had been receiving treatment

Continued on page 2, col 7

## Russian extremist expelled

By Our Foreign Staff

BULGARIA has ordered Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the extreme right-wing Russian politician, to leave the country within 24 hours. The Interior Ministry in Sofia said yesterday he had angered Bulgarians by demanding the resignation of President Zhelyu, their first democratically-elected leader, and instead presenting his Bulgarian friend and adviser, Svetoslav Stoylov, as the Balkan nation's future leader.

An angry crowd of about 500 Bulgarians booed and shouted "Hitler" and "go home" at Mr Zhirinovskiy yesterday when he laid flowers at a monument to Soviet troops in the centre of Sofia.

In Bonn meanwhile, a foreign ministry spokesman said Germany had not yet decided whether to grant a request by Mr Zhirinovskiy for a visa.

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## Blizzards ruin Australia's Christmas beach party

FROM MICHAEL PESCHARDT IN SYDNEY

MILLIONS of picnic hampers had been prepared; crates of champagne put on ice; and scores of surfboards loaded on to car roof racks ready for a traditional Australian Christmas at the beach. But with the sort of timing usually reserved for British bank holidays, the weather has intervened to make this the most miserable festive season in living memory.

In Melbourne, it has been the coldest Christmas for more than a hundred years. In homes throughout the city, the central heating was turned on and everyone has been huddled in front of the television — though, to add to the misery, there

has been little to watch. Christmas is the leanest of periods for viewers here, as television networks schedule hour upon hour of repeats.

Even the traditional Boxing Day cricket Test has been an anti-climax. Only a few hours' play was possible in the opening three days of the first Test against the South Africans in more than 20 years.

In the Snowy Mountains, normally hot and balmy at this time of the

snow fell in many areas yesterday, causing problems for travellers and forcing the cancellation of sporting events. In Kent, black ice made driving conditions hazardous, while stretches of the M42 around Birmingham were reduced to one lane and at least 17 vehicles were involved in a pile-up. West Yorkshire police described roads as atrocious, and speed restrictions were in force on the M62 and M1. Leeds/Bradford airport was shut while snow ploughs cleared the runway and flights were diverted. Report, page 2; photograph, page 16

year, people were able to work off their Christmas lunches with snowball fights after fresh blizzards.

At sea, competitors in the annual Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race have been battling the worst gales for decades. Two boats have sunk and nearly half the 105 vessels have been forced to shelter in port. One skipper was swept overboard and spent six hours in the water before being spotted by a tanker.

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Photograph, page 7  
Yacht race, page 17

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## Vatican expert condemns mother of test-tube twins

■ The babies born to a 59-year-old woman will be disadvantaged by never knowing their real mother, a theologian claims

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

THE Vatican fuelled the controversy over *in vitro* fertilisation yesterday when a leading expert specifically criticised the 59-year-old London woman who gave birth to twins on Christmas Day.

"The two little twins born in London will never know their real mother," Father Gonzalo Miranda, a Spanish priest who runs the bioethics centre at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, said. "They were carried into this world with a handicap from the start. The woman who bore them is not their genetic mother. Their genetic make-up, which is so important for the overall configuration of an individual, comes from an anonymous Italian donor of the eggs and from the man whom the woman has just married."

Father Miranda said he expected the woman would have the characteristics of a grandmother rather than a mother. "The psychological phases of maternity coincide naturally with the physiological phases," he said. "In the present case the physiological circumstances of the woman have been artificially forced, and a psychological forcing has also been carried out."

He said the latest technical achievements by Dr Severino Antinori, the controversial fertility specialist, demonstrated that the Catholic church's opposition to test-tube fertilisations, particularly when the eggs or sperm of an extraneous donor are used, was well-founded. "This opposition is not the product of abstract theories, but is founded on the search for the complete good of every human being, which includes the need to avoid forced situations and their unpredictable outcomes," he said.

Father Miranda said the

latest developments confirmed the necessity of the Vatican's 1987 appeal for new legislation in the bioethics field.

Professor Jean-Francois Mattei, a senior figure in French medicine, described the birth of the twins as running against nature. "The woman has been reduced to the role of an incubator, and the child to that of an object," he said. "Why not imagine a 100-year-old mother, just to get into the record books?"

"Pregnancy is a physical and psychological trial, and nature considers that once a woman reaches menopause, her body is no longer able to assure pregnancy without unforeseeable risks."

Prof Mattei, who is head of the pre-natal unit of Marseille-Timone hospital, a member of the French parliament and a leading member of the Government's ethical advisory council, said the matter would be raised in a forthcoming Senate debate on bioethics.

The 62-year-old Italian farmer's wife who is expecting a baby after treatment from Dr Antinori said yesterday that she was fearful of the wide international interest in her case.

Rosanna Della Corte said: "I would have preferred that people didn't know about my pregnancy so soon because I haven't yet completed the third month and this is my seventh attempt to get pregnant."

She said she was anxious about the birth. "But I'm sure I have so much love to give him, an infinite love, all that I had for Riccardo, my first child who died two years ago at the age of 17. I have suffered so much, why should I not merit the joy of bringing up a new baby now?"

Simon Jenkins, page 12

## Hopes high for '94

Continued from page 1  
New high. Shares in New York, Paris and Frankfurt all reached record levels on Monday, although they all fell slightly as some investors took their profits yesterday.

Only the Tokyo market — the world's biggest — is nowhere near a record level. Shares there have been de-

pressed because of the Japanese recession combined with the high value of the yen.

The Nikkei index rose 311 points to 17,131 yesterday, but that is still almost 13,000 lower than its all-time high.

World markets, page 29  
Leading from front, page 30

## Steam train to Brighton evokes power and the glory of a distant era



The age of steam being revived yesterday by a British Railways standard class 4 engine pulling a train past the shell of Battersea power station in London. The charter service — the first steam train to Brighton since 1967 — was one of three run this week by the Flying Scotsman Enterprise Agency

## Pit managers feathering own nests, says Labour

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITISH Coal managers preparing to bid for the privatised industry were accused by Labour yesterday of seeking to benefit from the closure of pits.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, had earlier confirmed that managers were interested in trying to maintain control of parts of the industry, which is to be sold next year, in the absence of positive interest from Britain's big mining companies.

Mr Clarke said: "They know a great deal about the business, and certainly in the regional areas, Wales and Scotland, I would not be surprised that they will be willing to have a go."

The disclosure that senior managers were planning attempts to take over some of the five coal regions led to accusations that the Government had deliberately allowed managers to run down the industry to reduce buy-out costs.

Kim Howells, the Labour MP for Pontypridd and a former miner, said last night: "I believe they were given the task directly by the Govern-

ment to run this industry about it. They simply closed down one pit after another."

"This has all the signs of an expedient management buy-out and that they were feathering their own nests for the future."

Tim Eggar, the energy minister, is expected to announce details of the privatisation programme early next year.

He was warned by Lord Parkinson, the former energy

secretary, that the Government would have to take on some of British Coal's liabilities before the industry could be privatised. Lord Parkinson said: "British Coal is not just the biggest coal producer in Britain. It is the regulator for the whole industry. It owns all the reserves. There is going to have to be a fundamental restructuring of the whole industry. Certain things will have to be left with the Government — the ownership of the reserves alongside certain liabilities."

Few big international mining companies have shown interest in the British mining business. Mr Clarke, speaking on BBC Radio Four's *The World at One*, said that they might come forward when more details were known.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said yesterday that miners would oppose privatisation "in whatever form it takes". He said: "We, as the British people, already own this industry and it ought to be given a fair crack of the whip economically."



Clarke confirmed chiefs' interest in buy-outs

## Ministers prepare to soften tax blows

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TREASURY warnings that tax rises will slow down Britain's economic recovery yesterday heralded a concerted Government campaign to soften the blow of next year's increases.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury Financial Secretary, admitted that tax increases announced in this year's two Budgets will hold up economic progress when they filter through to pay packets in the Spring. It was "right to say the tax increases coming in will slow the recovery from the pace it would otherwise have taken", he said.

His warning is likely to be followed by a new year strategy among senior ministers to prepare the public for a "pain barrier" when tax rises come into effect. Ministers are anxious that people are forewarned about the size of the burden so that there is not an over-reaction to the rises which will show through immediately before local council elections in May and European parliamentary elections in June.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has conceded that the combined effects of his Budget last month and Norman Lamont's March Budget will cost the average family at least £9 a week in increased taxes, equivalent to a 7p in the pound tax rise.

Although Mr Dorrell insisted that Britain was well placed to show continued growth, and cautioned against allowing the economy to "run too fast", he acknowledged that "the recovery is not going as fast as maybe we would like in an ideal world."

Economic optimism, page 1

## Drivers due home from Turkish jail

Three British truck drivers freed after spending a month in a Turkish jail are due to return to London today. Graham Quinn, 44, and Tony Quinn, 43, from Bradford, and Peter Thomas, 46, of Bristol, were arrested on November 27 for allegedly attempting to leave Turkey with false documents. They had delivered computers to Istanbul and were returning with a cargo of T-shirts but were accused by Turkish customs officials of underloading their lorries so that manufacturers could receive export bonuses.

Yesterday the court in the border town of Edirne ruled that there was insufficient evidence to detain the men on the charge of imaginary exporting and ordered their release. A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that it was not clear whether the prosecution had been dropped. The case against the T-shirt manufacturers, Istanbul Textiles, continues.

## Workers win £310m

Unions won nearly £310 million for members in legal awards last year, a rise of at least £29 million over 1991, according to the TUC's annual survey of union legal services. Most of the 123,000 cases taken up concerned personal injury at work. A trainee who lost both feet while cleaning a soap-mixing machine was awarded £102,000.

## Hunger strike demand

A 34-year-old Liverpool man demanding a fresh enquiry into the use of thalidomide in the 1960s was joined on hunger strike yesterday by a fellow victim of the drug, Freddie Astbury, who began his fast on Christmas eve, said that he and Gary Skynner, 31, were prepared to die unless Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, agreed to meet them.

## Budget 'has hit women'

The living standard of more than three million women working in the public sector will drop as a result of the Budget, the Labour Party claims. Harriet Harman, right, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said that 300,000 low-paid women must pay tax for the first time. Clare Short, MP, said up to 45,000 will find themselves better off on benefit than in work, tightening the poverty trap.



## Dental patient dies

An inquest is expected to be opened this week into the death of a man who died after having four teeth taken out by a dentist. Christopher Quinn, 22, of Coventry, West Midlands, was put under a general anaesthetic by the dentist because he was afraid of the treatment. His father said last night that Mr Quinn hated going to the dentist.

## Hypnotist's own goal

Thetford Town football players, who had lost all 14 games this season, conceding 58 goals, were hypnotised in an attempt to improve their luck. After a session with hypnotist John Dennis the team felt confident, but when they turned out against Mildenhall, chanting "We are winners", their luck had not changed: the team crashed 9-0.

## Arrest after safari trip

Continued from page 1  
at the centre at a cost to council tax payers in Gloucestershire of £1,500 a week. Last night John Standing, Conservative councillor and spokesman on social services, said: "I am shattered and appalled by what has happened. We will have to think seriously about where we go in future with this youth."

He defended the decision of Gloucestershire social services to place the boy at the centre. "It would cost the county council between £1,800 and £2,000 a week to put him in local authority secure accom-

modation," he said. The teenager's mother refused to discuss the matter at her home on a council estate in Gloucester. When details of his trip were disclosed last week she said he was having every minute of it. The Government wants foreign trips for young offenders at taxpayers' expense to stop. David Maclean, a junior Home Office Minister, said that demanding and disciplined outdoor activities had a part to play in tackling offending behaviour, but that they should take place in the Cairngorms rather than in Spain and Portugal.

## Gap in house prices narrows

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE gap in housing prices across the regions has narrowed significantly in the past year, according to a housing market survey published today.

In its annual review of the UK housing market, the Halifax Building Society says that price differentials have stabilised and are at their narrowest for many years.

A house in the South is currently 15 per cent more expensive than the overall UK average, compared with 60

per cent in 1988. In the North houses are 15 per cent below the average, compared with 35 per cent in 1988.

In a more general assessment of the prospects for 1994, the society predicts a significant rise in activity in the next 12 months. "The days of boom and bust in the UK housing market are hopefully ended and we are seeing a return to housing being a safe, if not spectacular investment," the report says.

But the report notes that the

aftermath of recession and fear of unemployment continue to dampen activity.

The Halifax predicts a steady rise in house moves in the year ahead together with a gradual increase in prices. Prices for the UK as a whole ended 2 per cent above their level at the beginning of the year. This time next year the Halifax predicts an annual rate of house price inflation of around 5 per cent.

Economic optimism, page 1

## Snow halts drivers and sport

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

SNOW fell in many areas yesterday, causing problems for travellers and forcing the cancellation of sports events.

From early morning a blanket of snow covered the country from the Midlands northwards as warm air being blasted westwards by gale-force winds from the Atlantic met cold air in the east. As far south as Kent snow fell on high ground and black ice made driving conditions hazardous.

Stretches of the M42 around Birmingham were reduced to one lane and at least 17 vehicles were involved in a

pile-up caused by the treacherous conditions.

Police in West Yorkshire described roads as atrocious and speed restrictions were in force on the M62 and M1. During the worst snowfall a police spokesman said: "It's very treacherous wherever you travel. If anybody is thinking of going out, please don't."

Leeds/Bradford airport was shut while snowploughs cleared the runway and flights had to be diverted.

The motoring organisations were deluged with calls. By 10am, the RAC had received 2,500 call-outs, about double the normal number.

Yesterday's rush continued what has been one of the busiest Christmas periods on record for the motoring organisations. The AA received 7,000 calls on Christmas Day, about double that of a normal winter day.

The Premiership football match between Coventry and Ipswich was one of the sporting casualties of the weather.

Eight other matches were also postponed. In West Yorkshire the Wetherby race meeting was called off.

Thousands of skiers were turned back from Glenshee Ski Centre as high winds and blizzards closed many roads in the north of Scotland.

The access road to Glenshee from the south was blocked at the notorious Devil's Elbow. When it was opened just before midday the tailback of cars stretched for three miles. Glenshee director David Stewart said conditions at the centre were good and 15 ski tows were open. But he added: "I hate to think how many cars have been turned back this morning; it was probably thousands."

Heavy rain and high winds were posing new problems for emergency services in Glamorgan, after a week of snow and ice. A number of country roads were closed.

In some parts of Dumfries and Galloway the snow was up to eight inches deep. Snowploughs worked to keep

open the A74 Glasgow to Carlisle dual-carriageway. It was reduced to single-file traffic in the Beattock, Moffat and Lockerbie areas.

The Dalveen Pass, linking the A74 and the A76 Dumfries to Kilmarnock road, was also described as extremely hazardous for much of the day and there were blizzards in the Sanguhar and Kirkconnel areas.

Dumfries police said the main A75 Gretna to Stranraer Euro-route was difficult for several hours, with up to six inches of snow at Crockettford and Springfield.

Weathermen said that the blizzard conditions were only temporary and that for the rest of this year there should be bright and showery weather, with day-time temperatures about three degrees above normal. Strong winds from the west will continue.

Shopping on ice, page 5  
Australian snow, page 7  
Forecast and photograph, page 16

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## Suffolk cocaine seizure

## Mafia muscles in on Britain's drug smuggling trade

BY STEWART TENDLER  
AND PHILIP WILLAN

THE Mafia has for the first time been directly linked to drug-smuggling into this country after the seizure of 250kg of cocaine at Felixstowe, Suffolk, last week.

A Mafia presence had already been established in Britain, used as a base to launder profits from crime or as a transfer point for drugs being smuggled to other countries. The seizure will call into question the view that the Mafia would probably be attracted to softer targets in eastern Europe, rather than London, as a destination for drugs.

In Italy earlier this month, Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner, met the judge supervising the drive against the Mafia. Although he is understood to have been advised that the Italian authorities believed the Mafia was working to expand into Russia and Hungary rather than the UK, he was warned that it was using London to launder money.

Two years ago British embassy staff in Rome issued a warning that this country could become a target for the Mafia. The authors of the report, a senior diplomat and a Scotland Yard officer on secondment with the Italian police, were accused of exaggerating the risks. Now, with the first evidence that the Mafia could be targeting Britain with big drugs consignments, that view might have to be revised.

Police and Customs officers have long accepted that the Mafia has a presence in Britain but its size and influence has been unclear. Intelligence has also suggested this country was being used principally to launder profits or as a transfer point for drugs on

■ The view that the Mafia would look to eastern Europe rather than London to expand its empire must now be revised

their way to other countries. There were few overt signs of the Mafia although the death of an Italian cocaine dealer in west London over a decade ago raised the possibility of a Mafia-style killing. Investigators in another case also uncovered an agricultural fraud stretching from Sicily to Britain.

The first evidence that the presence might be more potent came in the 1980s when Customs officers broke up a heroin smuggling ring linked to Montreal.

Francesco Di Carlo, who had been living under cover in Surrey, was jailed for 25 years in 1987 as the head of a racket moving heroin worth £75 million.

Di Carlo, who had lived undisturbed in Woking after being exiled from Sicily after being demoted from the island's Mafia leadership, had been able to build up a series of businesses and other smuggling interests in Britain, apart from the heroin trade. The investigators discovered

that an even more powerful figure had been living in luxury in a country mansion and had fled before he could be arrested.

Police believe Di Carlo's mantle passed to another chieftain who remains in London. A second Mafia figure operates as a successful businessman and also still works in Britain.

The thrust of Mafia operations had hitherto been identified as harnessing London's huge financial markets to move or conceal Mafia cash. Scotland Yard recently detected what it believes are attempts by the Mafia to buy works of art as long-term investments for dirty money.

Earlier this year, a colonel from the anti-Mafia squad in Rome visited London to examine files on suspected Mafia fraud and laundering operations. He was sufficiently concerned by his findings to recommend the appointment of an Italian officer to work full-time with the unit in London.

The cocaine cache now raises new dangers. Since the beginning of the 1990s, American and European experts on the Mafia have been concerned that the Sicilian network of gangs which makes up the modern Mafia could be seeking to expand.

Italian investigators said that the Mafia would capitalise on the reduction of frontier controls and trade restrictions within the European Union. In the United States, federal agents issued warnings about alliances between the Mafia and the Colombian cartels.



Di Carlo: serving 25-year sentence

## Cartels move into Europe

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AMERICAN and European anti-drug officials say the links between the Mafia and Colombian drug cartels are responsible for most of the cocaine in Western Europe.

Up to 300 tonnes a year of Colombian cocaine is shipped into Western Europe via islands in the Caribbean. The US Drug Enforcement Administration says the cartels have been poised for some time to exploit the relaxed border controls in Europe, where cocaine prices

are three times higher on average than in the US. They claim that despite repeated warnings, Europe is not prepared to deal with growing cocaine consumption.

Police believe that the Mafia and other Italian groups, including the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria, have developed strong networks in Colombia and Venezuela. "We understand that a lot of cocaine is going through Venezuela en route to Europe and a lot is ending up in Sicily," Tony

Attanasio, a DEA Mafia expert in Miami, said.

Increasing numbers of cocaine shipments to Europe have been detected in the past two years. In May 1992, 2,200lb of cocaine sent via Venezuela was discovered in a cargo of lead at Felixstowe, Suffolk.

A popular smuggling route is from ports in Galicia, Spain, overland to Italy. Some cargoes have been sent direct to Sicily for redistribution by sea to countries including Britain.

## AA recovers member's car from Red Square

BY A STAFF REPORTER

COLIN Barrell thought that he was destined to lose his classic Cadillac when it broke down in Moscow's Red Square.

He could find no way to get it back to Britain until he contacted the Automobile Association, which he had joined two weeks earlier. The organisation rescued the 19th 6in car, towing it across more than 1,800 miles in the biggest "relay" it had ever carried out.

Mr Barrell, who runs a funeral and wedding car service in Portsmouth, Hampshire, was driving his £16,000 Cadillac on a classic car expedition to Moscow to take toys and clothes for the children of Chernobyl.

"I had actually reached Red Square when the gearbox suddenly packed up and oil spewed out down the road," he said last night.

The Cadillac also had a puncture and while he was changing the wheel, some children climbed inside and stole £1,000.

"I had joined the AA Five Star European service just 14 days earlier, but when I rang their headquarters in France they said they couldn't help because I was outside Europe."

"On the off-chance, I phoned the AA in Basingstoke and someone there said they saw it as a challenge and would give it a go. They told me to get on a plane home and leave the rest to them. I was flabbergasted."

An AA spokesman said yesterday: "It was certainly the most ambitious rescue we have ever undertaken. The journey took eight days."



## BACK TO THE FUTURE

"Yesterday's trends and fads find themselves coming back into fashion even before they've had the chance to book a holiday. Which is exactly why we can expect a real hoo-ha over the return of the mini skirt."

Iain R. Webb predicts the return of the mini and joins Matthew Paris, Trevor Dann, Frances Bissell, Giles Gordon and other Times experts looking forward to what's in store in 1994.

## GREENE'S JOTTINGS

Graham Greene used to scribble remarks in the margins of the books he read. Christopher Hawtree has been granted exclusive access.

This Saturday in The Times Magazine



Foxy Loxy, believed to be epileptic, playing in ferns. The cub had been hand-fed when he was found abandoned

## Hunt kills farmworker's pet fox

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FARMWORKER yesterday described how a pack of hounds burst into his garden and killed a pet fox cub which he had hand-raised after finding it abandoned.

Peter Jolliffe, 26, watched from a window as the hounds savaged the eight-month-old animal, tethered to a kennel. Hunters bundled the carcass into a bag and rode off, he said. Mr Jolliffe plans to take action against the Tedworth Hunt from Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Captain Rupert Inglesant, the hunt master, later apologised for the killing. He said the fox had been running on a boundary between farmland and the garden when it was caught. Capt Inglesant, 29, said: "If I could undo what happened I

would. I found the carcass and didn't see what happened but someone told me a nearby resident owned a semi-fame fox. I hadn't a clue if the fox I found was the tame one or the one we had been hunting."

He added: "I went to see the gentleman and apologised for any inconvenience. He was very emotional and understandably so. But it was a genuine mistake and a very embarrassing incident."

Mr Jolliffe had kept the cub, called Foxy Loxy, at his home in Upson since finding it when it was two months old. It was disabled and of stunted growth but Mr Jolliffe bottle-fed it.

He said his vet believed the fox was epileptic and would not have survived without him. "We became

best buddies," he said. "He was about a third of a fox's normal size—a real pathetic specimen. I took him for walks on a lead. I kept him tethered to a dog kennel in the garden." Arlin Rickard,

spokesman for the British Field Sports Society, said only one dog killed the fox as the others had been pulled back when the hunt reached a boundary between farmland and gardens. He said: "The dead fox was discovered on farmland outside the garden. It must have been running back to its home."

Organisers of the Bramham Moor Hunt could face claims for damages after hounds caused an accident when they ran across the A1 at Aberford, near Leeds. Five dogs were killed, several others were injured and two cars were extensively damaged. The Boxing Day meet of the Taunton Vale Hunt was abandoned when two hounds were killed by a train after straying on to a railway line at Bradford-on-Avon, Somerset.

Jolliffe: saw "best buddy" cub die

## British barman shot dead in US

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A 28-YEAR-OLD Briton shot dead in an apparent robbery in Washington DC four days before Christmas has been identified as Adam Fox, who worked as a barman.

Police have launched a murder enquiry after he was shot in the stomach as he left a bar to catch a taxi. His body was found by a policeman, but was not identified for three days until friends became concerned when he failed to turn up for work.

Mr Fox is believed to have first moved to the United States about seven years ago and worked in bars and nightclubs. His family lives in Edgware, north London, and are making arrangements to have his body flown home.

Douglas Platin, a friend, said he saw Mr Fox early on December 21 as he hailed a cab to go home. Minutes later he heard gunfire. He said that when he went back toward the intersection where he had last seen Mr Fox there was no sign of him and he thought Mr Fox had taken a cab home.

Mr Platin said that on Christmas Eve two police told him the body of a man had been found. He later identified him as Mr Fox.

Police said the body was found three blocks from where Mr Platin said he last saw Mr Fox alive. His wallet and black leather jacket were missing.

Washington police confirmed that a murder enquiry had been launched, but would not comment on whether Mr Fox was shot by a mugger.



Adam Fox: body not identified for three days

## Woman, 83, shut up for two days in wardrobe

BY LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN aged 83 almost died after being sexually assaulted and barricaded in a wardrobe for two days over the Christmas holiday.

The 83-year-old woman was rescued by her nephew who visited her council flat in Southwark, southeast London, on Christmas Eve. He called police when he failed to get a reply.

The spinster was discovered dehydrated and in a state of shock when police broke into her flat. They found her in a built-in wardrobe that had been barricaded with furniture.

Det Inspector Tony Curtis said: "Had it not been for the caring relative on a Christmas visit, this might have been a murder enquiry."

The woman, who was in an extremely distressed condition, was taken to Guy's Hospital, who she was later discharged to first said spend Christmas with other members of her family.

Police believe that the attacker entered her home as she returned from a shopping trip last Wednesday. He pushed his way into her bedroom, pulled her down on the bed and indecently assaulted her before pushing her into the wardrobe.

Detectives have been unable to discover if the man followed the woman into her flat or was laying in wait inside the premises. There were no signs of forced entry.

"The perpetrator of this crime is of a callous mind and gave no thought to the woman's welfare," Mr Curtis said.

"This is a particularly ruthless and tasteless attack on a frail, defenceless victim. She was imprisoned without food or drink and had she not been discovered she would undoubtedly have died."

The woman has lived in the fifth floor flat for nearly 30 years. She gave a brief description of her attacker as black, fairly tall and wearing dark clothing.

A 22-year-old man is in hospital after he was attacked by seven men at Fitzwilliam station, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, while returning home with his brother after a Christmas Eve drink. He suffered severe head injuries and several broken bones after being kicked and punched.

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# Keeping criminals out of prison fails to reform them

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROBATION and community service punishment has not proved more effective than prison in stopping re-offending, according to a report published today.

The findings will create controversy within the penal affairs lobby, which has repeatedly stressed that punishment in the community is effective and it will provide Home Office ministers with ammunition to answer critics of their law and order strategy and its emphasis on imprisonment.

Adam Sampson, deputy director of the Prison Reform Trust, questions the effectiveness of community penalties in a report which undermines some claims made in support of non-custodial punishment.

"Despite the claims of the probation service, there is little evidence that probation and community service are more effective than prison in preventing re-offending," Mr Sampson says in the report.

He says 57 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women discharged from prison in 1987 were reconvicted of a further offence within two years. The comparative figures for those given probation in 1987 were 56 per cent of men and 37 per cent of women, and for those given community service 55

per cent and 41 per cent respectively.

The figures for those under 21 released from prison and reconvicted within two years were 71 per cent of males and 51 per cent of females compared with 66 per cent males and 41 per cent females who were given probation; for those given community service, the figures were 65 and 43 per cent respectively.

Mr Sampson says that although the re-offending rate of those released from prison has exceeded that for offenders sentenced to community penalties, there is growing realisation that the differential between the two methods is not that large.

However, the report, entitled *Does Prison Work?*, challenges the claim by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary,



Maclean: no "magical community" solution

that prison works and adds that it is useful neither as a deterrent nor as a means of rehabilitating prisoners.

Mr Sampson's figures on reconviction rates suggest that there is little that works in curbing re-offending, though punishment in the community, the philosophy underpinning government policies during the late 1980s, remains an attractive option to the Treasury because of the savings in costs.

In 1991-92, it cost £1,915 a month to keep a person in custody compared with £100 for a probation order and £95 for a community service order.

David Maclean, a junior Home Office minister, said the figures showed there was no "magical community" solution to dealing with offenders. "The presumption of some people to re-offend is just as great if they get a community sentence than if they are sent to prison."

"Up to 25 per cent of those who have been given a community sentence are reconvicted within 12 months while they are still serving the community sentence."

Almost 90,000 offences against prison discipline, including assaults on prison officers, were punished last year, the highest for a decade.



John Davy and Barry Ranger, security guards, patrolling the corridors of the 1,000-bed Southmead Hospital, Bristol, on mountain bikes to give them extra mobility in the fight to cut down crime on the sprawling 67-acre site

# Loch Ness study makes light of monster legend

Scientists have found that Loch Ness contains too little food to support the huge creature made popular by local mythology

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Loch Ness monster has been cut down to size by scientific studies that show there is not enough food in the loch to keep a predator of Jurassic Park dimensions alive.

Adrian Shine, a naturalist who leads the Loch Ness Project in Drumadrochit on the banks of the Highland loch, said if there was a monster at all, it was probably a Baltic sturgeon with a poor sense of direction.

Mr Shine's researches will be aided next year by a submarine in the loch. Alan Whitfield, the owner of the 20 ft vessel, will also be offering £70 tourist trips to the bottom of the loch. "This will be the ultimate monster hunt," he said. "We'll be looking in caves and overhangs and, who knows, we could come eyeball to eyeball with the monster."

New research, to be published soon in a special edition of *The Scottish Naturalist*, does not address the monster issue directly but casts new light on it. Calculations of the total mass of fish in the loch, by two methods, suggest that it cannot be greater than 20 to 30 tonnes. Normal rule-of-thumb suggests that resident predators could amount to no more than a tenth of that. No viable population could exist with fewer than about ten members, for reasons of genetic variability. This means that each "monster" could weigh no more than about 200 kg, which represents a length of six to nine feet.

Mr Shine believes that most of the sightings of humped creatures are actually the wakes of boats, but he is reluctant to dismiss all

sightings. He pointed out that the legend of a giant fish long anticipated the monster stories that have made Loch Ness a tourist attraction. His favourite candidate is the Baltic sturgeon, a sea fish that enters fresh water to breed and spawn. It has a reptilian appearance, with a dorsal fin set towards its tail. Sturgeon can be more than nine ft long and can weigh 200 kg.

Mr Shine said: "Sturgeon are very rare visitors to British waters, but it isn't impossible to imagine one blundering up the River Ness into the loch in search of a mate, and failing to find one. This is the sort of thing that could have started the tradition. But it would be rather nice to think I am wrong."

The most striking finding of the research is that the loch's ecology may be dominated not by green plants — as lakes normally are — but by the breakdown of organic material that flows into it from the surrounding hills.

Boreholes drilled into the loch floor have revealed layers of sediment, like the rings in a tree, which may contain information of great geological and climatological importance. The waters at the bed are so still that the layers are undisturbed, creating a year-by-year record. "This could give us a wonderful picture going right back to the Ice Age," Mr Shine said.

The submarine will help with the coring project and observing Arctic char, the commonest fish in the loch. It is rated for use at depths of up to 1,000 ft, so should have no trouble penetrating the 750 ft of the loch.



# Theatres face year of financial drama

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

MANCHESTER begins a year-long festival of drama this week, billed as the biggest theatrical extravaganza Britain has seen. But two of the city's theatres face grant cuts that will make 1994 more a year of economising than of celebrating.

The irony has not escaped the City of Drama festival organisers or Manchester City Council, which wields the axe. Although the festival's £10 million budget — part of the Arts 2000 project — is allowing Manchester to refurbish venues and create new ones, there is little it can do to help the Library and Forum theatres.

Despite previous fears, Manchester's oldest repertory theatre, the Library Theatre, will not close next year. However, with £100,000 cut from its grant and another £100,000 set to go in 1995, it will find the year tough. It had absorbed a cut of £220,000 last March — roughly the amount put into the 1994 festival by the council.

The future is equally unsure for the Forum Theatre. It has been kept open through temporary sponsorship from Manchester City Airport.

Julian Sleath, City of Drama project manager, said that the grant reduction — the result of wider local authority spending cutbacks — comes as a blow. "Obviously this has not coincided well with the festival and we are still campaigning for the theatres. We can give them political help, but no financial aid," he said.

The City of Drama year, funded by the Arts Council, local authorities, the Manchester Development Corporation and a host of

private sponsors, will open on Friday with an operatic gala concert featuring extracts from *Carmen*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Porgy and Bess*.

An attempt to break the record for conga dancing — around the Town Hall — will also take place, fitting neatly into the stated aim of the festival: to lower the barriers between high and low art.

The National Theatre takes Tony Kushner's acclaimed three-part homosexual fantasia to Manchester next month at the Crompton Theatre, and David Hare's *Racing Demon*, first seen at the National Theatre on London's South Bank, is on at the Library Theatre.

New venues brought to life by the festival include the Upper Campfield Market, converted into a large-scale performance space, and a 400-seat Dancehouse Theatre in a former 1930s cinema.

Elsewhere in Manchester, a new £42 million international concert hall, to be home to the Halle Orchestra, is being built independently of the festival. The building will be constructed on springs to soundproof the space from traffic noise and the vibrations of the city's Metrolink tram service.



Hare: festival will show *Racing Demon*

# Quarrelling couple set on fire

By ALISON ROBERTS

A quarrelling couple was set on fire in a Manchester flat last night, with the woman sustaining serious burns. The fire broke out in the living room of a two-bedroom flat in the city centre. The couple, who were in the flat at the time, were seen by neighbours who called the fire service. The fire was contained to the living room, but the woman, who was 36, was badly injured. She is now in hospital, and her condition is serious. The man, who was 38, was not injured. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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## Smokers face bigger tax burden in fight to cut death toll

By LIN JENKINS

CIGARETTES will attract higher tax to ensure that prices rise above the rate of inflation as part of a £12 million anti-smoking campaign launched yesterday.

The government plan to use price as a deterrent is aimed at adults and follows research which suggests that every 10 per cent rise in the real price of cigarettes leads to a drop of more than 5 per cent in the number of smokers.

Brian Mawhinney, the Health Minister, said that the three-year campaign was aimed at reducing the number of working days lost each year and the death toll caused by smoking.

According to government statistics, 50 million working days were lost each year and 110,000 people died prematurely because of smoking-related diseases.

The UK already has an impressive record in reducing smoking from 45 per cent of the population in 1974 to 30

percent now," Dr Mawhinney said. "However, smoking has such a devastating effect on health that we must reduce prevalence further. The price of tobacco is an important part of that strategy."

The real price of a packet of cigarettes has risen 67 per cent since 1978-79. This year the price rose 21p a packet and the Chancellor announced that the real level of tobacco duties would rise by at least 3 per cent a year on average.

Recent anti-smoking campaigns have been aimed at children but the results have been disappointing. The focus on adults follows research which suggests that children of non-smoking parents are two and a half times less likely to smoke than children whose parents smoke. Children are also seven times less likely to smoke if they perceive strong parental disapproval.

Dr Mawhinney said the campaign would also concentrate on the dangers of

passive smoking. He said there was evidence that one person a day who does not smoke dies from lung cancer as a result of inhaling other people's tobacco smoke over many years. Dr Mawhinney claimed that 50 children aged under five were admitted to hospital each day suffering from symptoms of passive smoking.

The results of a survey released yesterday show that nearly nine in ten former smokers had tried to quit at least once before they were successful and one in five had sought help in giving up.

The survey, conducted by Gallup for Pharmacia Ltd, found that most smokers were not happy with their habit and 73 per cent wanted to give up.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "A ban on tobacco advertising and promotion is an essential first step in any serious campaign to prevent young people from smoking."



GRIMETHORPE Colliery Band rehearsing, perhaps prophetically, a piece called *The Last Jerusalem*. The future of the band is in doubt following the closure of the pit. British Coal has promised reduced

sponsorship into next year, but after that financial support is unlikely. Four of the 27 musicians are still employed by the company but the others have had to seek work elsewhere since the south Yorkshire

pit closed in May. The band is seeking sponsors to help with the £60,000 annual running costs. Mr Ken Hurst, the band's secretary, said yesterday: "We want to keep Grimethorpe Colliery in the name if

we can, but it depends on who we find to support us." Mr Hurst said that it would mean an end to foreign trips and daytime midweek engagements because members cannot get time off work.

## Snow puts bargain hunting on ice

By ROBIN YOUNG

YESTERDAY'S snow, sleet and rain dampened customers' enthusiasm for bargain hunting when the winter sales started yesterday.

In Regent Street, London, Liberty was the principal newcomer to the ranks of the price-cutting emporia. There were none of Monday's crowded pavements and traffic jams. By mid-morning nearby car parks still had spaces and the streets were no busier than before Christmas.

There was some pushing and shoving just inside Liberty's front doors where newcomers attempting to shake wet coats and umbrellas clashed with shoppers picking over trays of cut-price silk scarves, shawls and handkerchiefs. Upstairs even the rain-wear department was short of customers compared with previous years.

### YESTERDAY'S BEST BARGAINS

Liberty	
Wool suits	£228 reduced to £195
Ralph Lauren, Amman, Kerzoo	
Vivienne Westwood	
Nicola Farhi	all one third off
Katharine Hamnett, Bella Freud, Betty Jackson, Mulberry	all half price
Descamps towelings	30% off
44 piece cutlery canteen	£250 reduced to £225
Heals	
Tableware	30 per cent off
Dining table	£669 reduced to £595
King-size bed frame	£809 reduced to £515
Feather and down duvets	£79.95 reduced to £57.95
Habitat	
Imported crockery	half price
Bed and mattress	£848 cut to £689
Table and two chairs	£177 reduced to £125
Bed linen	20 per cent off

In Tottenham Court Road, where the furnishing stores Habitat and Heal's started their sales, it was still possible at midday to park outside the shops. The floors were reasonably full but customers could circulate without jostling.

Martin Barnett of the Marble Arch Retailers' Association said: "The weather has emptied the streets. Yesterday we were busy. Today it is dead."

Some stores, such as Dickens & Jones, have announced that there will be further reductions from many sale prices on Saturday, which is New Year's Day.

Many customers in West End stores could be heard planning return trips for mid-January when final reductions come into effect. The general opinion was that many shopkeepers will still have plenty of stock on their hands then.

In Birmingham, blizzards and icy roads kept sales shoppers away. Shopping streets which had been packed on Monday were almost empty and city centre roads deserted.

The weather also cut the numbers of shoppers in centres such as Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool.

Sales starting today include: Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1; Peter Jones, Sloane Square, London, SW1; Beattie's, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, and branches at Aylesbury, Birkenhead, Burton-on-Trent, Dudley, Northampton, Solihull, Sutton Coldfield and Worcester; Jenners, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Austin Road, City of London branches; Caroline Charles, Beauchamp Place, London, SW3; Edina Ronay, King's Road, London, SW3.

Photograph, page 1  
Alan Coren, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Quarrelling couple set on fire

By EDWARD GORMAN

A HUSBAND and wife were seriously ill last night after apparently dousing each other in petrol and setting themselves alight during an argument.

Two policemen suffered burns to their hands when they dragged Les and Michelle Beattie from a blazing bedroom at their home in Cramlington, Northumberland.

The police were called in the early hours yesterday by a relative who heard the couple arguing. When they arrived they found Mr and Mrs Beattie's five-year-old daughter being comforted by the relative, and then heard a loud explosion and screams upstairs. The fire gutted the top floor of the house.

Mrs Beattie, 30, who suffered 40 per cent burns, was in a critical condition last night at Newcastle General Hospital. Mr Beattie, 36, who has 30 per cent burns, was described as very ill.

Friends said that Mr Beattie had taken voluntary redundancy from his job as an assembly line worker at the Nissan car plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear, earlier this month.

## Slow track for round globe trip

By KEVIN EASON

THE start of a round-the-world drive started at a crawl yesterday for six drivers who aim to complete the 15,000-mile London to New York trek by March 31.

In keeping with their brief that all miles covered have to be on land, the team's two Ford Mondeo's were pulled through the Channel tunnel by diesel-powered trucks. With frequent stops to let through other service vehicles working in the 30-mile tunnel, the trip took just over three hours, an average speed of little over 10mph.

Once in France, the team turned south for Paris and encountered fierce driving snow, a foretaste of what is to come as the team heads across Siberia to the Bering Straits where temperatures will fall to -40C.

Today, they have a 700-mile drive to Berlin before going on to Warsaw, then Minsk for New Year's Day.

Richard Creasey, the expedition's leader, said from Paris last night: "The journey through the tunnel was absolutely crucial. We had to go through on wheels if we were to make this the first properly overland journey."

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# Truants from inner cities groomed to be entrepreneurs

A course imported from the United States will give streetwise youngsters the chance to learn business skills

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEENAGE truants are to be trained as entrepreneurs under a scheme imported from the United States that aims to break the dependency culture of the inner cities. Difficult pupils will be taught essential business skills — from understanding the *Financial Times* to drawing up contracts and registering a company — and then encouraged to start their own small firms. The first course will start in Kensington and Chelsea, west London, in the new year. Its organisers, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, expect the scheme to expand quickly across the country. Westminster council is already involved in plans to start a course for single mothers on one of the capital's most deprived housing estates. The schemes are based on the belief that inner-city youngsters possess the raw ingredients required to succeed in business. By confronting risk each day, they learn to become resilient, creative, observant, self-reliant and calm in adversity — the hallmarks of successful entrepreneurs. More than 15,000 students from deprived areas have graduated from its courses in the United States since 1987, with more than half either running their own businesses or in work within six months. The foundation has already secured the support of leading educationalists and industrialists in Britain, including Lord Griffiths of Forest, formerly the Government's senior adviser on examinations. Silvia Pearson, director of the foundation, said that in the past decade small firms with fewer than 20 employees had created more than 1.5 million jobs in Britain, compared with 150,000 by large companies. "This scheme recognises that small business is the power engine of the economy," she said. "Teaching children about entrepreneurship is vital both for their future as well as the country's." Miss Pearson said the scheme aimed to break the slavery engendered by the welfare state, helping people to break away from dependency on social security. The foundation has designed the course to teach students how to start, finance and manage their own companies. It involves 60 hours of lessons about marketing, book-keeping and production skills and 20 hours of field trips. Each student receives a kit containing business aids, including a calculator, personal organiser and sales receipts. Tutors spend 30 hours at the end of the course checking on the progress of each student. About 15 students aged 14 and 15 with poor attendance and behaviour records will take the course.

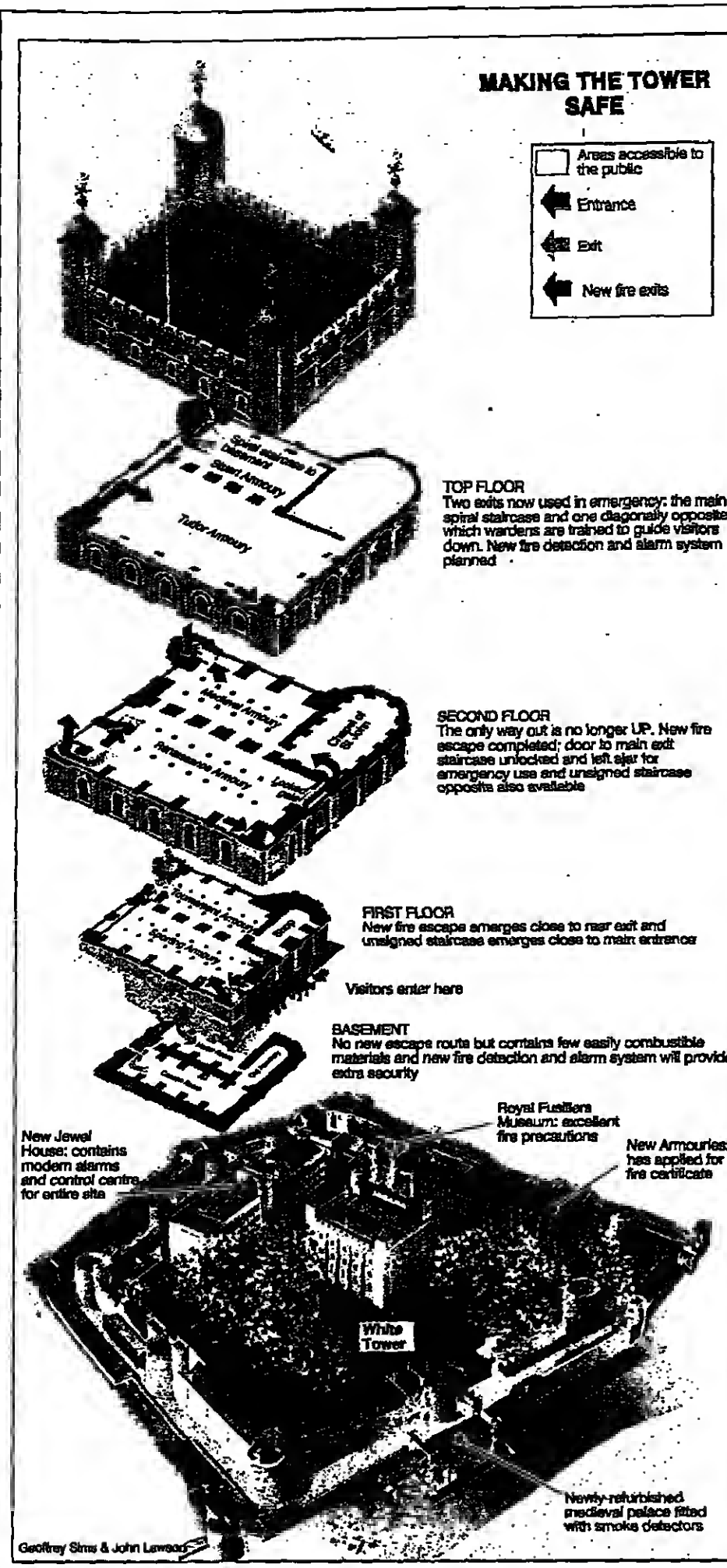
Letters, page 13

## Black Christmas for one in five children

ONE in five children in London spent Christmas in conditions of severe deprivation, a survey has disclosed. The report on poverty in the capital, by the Association of London Authorities, shows that 245,000 children live in overcrowded accommodation — officially defined as having more than one person per room. The survey said a fifth of children in London were growing up in families where income was at or below state benefit levels. Their parents had had to choose between buying food or presents. Official statistics on home-

lessness show that 34,750 families in London had to spend Christmas in inadequate temporary accommodation. Families living in temporary accommodation report various illnesses brought on by the squalor, including chronic bronchitis. The study highlighted the problem of debt, severely affecting thousands of families in the capital. About 70,000 families had mortgages more than six months in arrears and an increasing number were being taken to court.

Leading article and Letters, page 13



## Stone Age Ulstermen give up trade secrets

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Northern Ireland have discovered two timber houses and treasures dating back to the Stone Age. In one of the most significant finds in Ireland, an excavation team has found millstones, axe and arrow heads and delicate jewellery at a site near Ballygally, Co Antrim. Derek Simpson, Professor of Archaeology at Queen's University, Bel-

fast, who is leading the team, said yesterday that the axes, which date from about 3,800 BC, showed that Neolithic Ulstermen imported raw materials from as far as Cumbria and Cornwall. "The settlement appears to have been a major distribution centre and they exchanged goods from the Lake District and Cornwall," Professor

Simpson said. "Preliminary work indicates that a material known as pitchstone came from the Isle of Arran." The archaeologists found the site by chance after a Queen's lecturer noticed that the topsoil had been removed. Malachy Conway, the excavation director, said: "Burial mounds are easy because they show up on the landscape. But this could have lain unde-

tested for another 6,000 years." His team has only one more year to excavate the second timber house because a contractor plans to build houses near by. The early signs of human life in Ulster date back to between 7000 and 6500 BC. But it was not until the fourth millennium BC that farmers arrived in Ulster from across the North Channel.

## Tower's fire risks tackled after Times campaign

By TONY DAWE AND JACK CROSSLEY

THE Tower of London is being made safer for its 2.4 million annual visitors after a campaign by *The Times* that highlighted fire risks in Britain's most popular historic attraction and other Crown properties. The greatest improvements are being made in the White Tower, condemned as a potential firetrap after a survey for *The Times*. There will be a new fire escape inside the 900-year-old building for tourists on the second floor. Previously they would have had to go up a winding staircase to the third floor to reach an exit. The dangers had been allowed to develop at the Tower because, like Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the Palace of Westminster and most government offices, it has Crown immunity from prosecution under the fire protection laws. MPs on the Commons public accounts committee accused the Government of hiding behind Crown immunity and adopting an "outrageous, cynical and dangerous" approach to the safety of employees and the public. Within days of the *Times* investigation, the Home Office promised to re-examine the policy in a review of fire safety legislation. The Chief Fire Officers' Association told the Home Office in a letter: "The removal of Crown immunity from as many premises as possible must be a top priority and responsibility for fire safety in them should be placed in the hands of local fire authorities as soon as possible." The Government is providing £4.5 million over three years for the improvements at the Tower. A control centre, which will alert staff to any emergency on the site, has just opened in the new Jewel House, which will open to the public in the spring. The White Tower was criticised for its lack of fire alarms and insufficient emergency exits and signs by Ian Jerome of the Fire Protection Association, who surveyed the building for *The Times*. He was particularly concerned at arrangements on the second floor, which can contain up to 1,000 visitors during peak periods. The new fire escape at the back of the Renaissance armoury, which occupies half the second floor, will take visitors down to the first floor close to a wide and clearly marked exit. On the other side of the second floor, a door in a corner of the armoury is now left ajar so that visitors can reach the main exit staircase in an emergency. Wardens in the Tower have been given instructions about the use of another unmarked staircase in the event of fire. "We have been carrying out regular evacuations during opening hours and have cleared the building in three minutes," Stephen Bond of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which runs the tower, said. "The building is so strong and its wooden beams so thick that any fire would spread much longer than that to take hold." The next stage is to install a fire detection and alarm system, which will be done when the building is refurbished. "We have not rushed to install something which might quickly become out of date," Mr Bond said. "To avoid unnecessary interference to the building we want to install one system that will not only detect fire and raise the alarm but also detect intruders and monitor air humidity and quality." The Tower authorities were initially reluctant to accept the safety risks identified by *The Times* but Government officials pointed them out to Sir Alan Bailey, who had been commissioned to review fire safety in palaces after the blaze at Windsor Castle that caused up to £40 million damage. He singled out the White Tower for criticism.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Armed boy threatens pensioners

A boy believed to be as young as 12 threatened an elderly couple with a gun and demanded money.

The boy, who had a black handgun with a 9in barrel, approached Herbert Clough, 72, and his wife Hilda, 68, outside a club in Grimsby. He ran off with two older boys after the couple refused to give him money.

Det Chief Insp Doug McCully said: "The gun was similar to an air pistol, but it would have looked very frightening."

### Disabled attack

Muggers tipped a disabled man out of his wheelchair and searched him as he lay on the ground. The man, in his twenties, was attacked at Tickton, Humberside. His wallet, containing a small amount of cash, was taken.

### Murder charge

Jack Alders, 42, of Scarborough, was charged with the murder of Tommy Shaw, 30, who died on Christmas Eve, a week after suffering head injuries in a town centre disturbance.

### Charity letdown

Only four homeless people took advantage of a free dinner on Christmas Day and Boxing Day which charity workers in Fareham, Hampshire, expected to attract 150.

### Students killed

Two men from Hong Kong who were studying at Bristol University died when their car swerved across a road into a lorry as they returned from visiting a casino.

### Owl on loose

A European eagle owl said to be extremely dangerous, with a 6ft wingspan and talons the size of a man's hand, escaped from an aviary at Gunthorpe, near Nottingham.

### In the bag

A hundred aircraft sick bags, collected by Gillian Dean of Leeds, who has flying, will be part of an exhibition of weird collections in Leeds.

### Boy burned

A boy aged two suffered about 20 per cent burns when he tipped over a jug of boiling water at his home in Portlady, East Sussex.

### Grounded

A charter flight for twitchers to see an ivory gull, an Arctic native, in Shetland was called off when the bird disappeared.

### Print blaze

Sixty firemen tackled a blaze that badly damaged a print works in Faversham, Kent.

## VI-SPRING



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## Industrialised fishing port threatens to wipe out turtle

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's most spectacular wildlife events, in which waves of sea turtles clamour ashore to lay millions of eggs on an Indian beach, is facing a catastrophe. The Indian government is proposing to develop an industrial fishing port and processing factory a few miles from Gahirmatha beach in Orissa, where the annual egg laying occurs. Zoologists and conservationists fear that the scheme, involving up to 500 mechanised fishing vessels, will trigger the demise of one of the smallest species of sea turtle, the Olive Ridley.

Most of their other mass nesting grounds in the Pacific have been ruined by coastal developments leading to the disappearance of the species almost overnight. More than half a million Olive Ridley females come ashore in a single week in March to lay their eggs on the Indian beach. Females lay

eggs at the site where they were born and the beach is the biggest breeding ground for *Lepidochelys olivacea*, in the world. Scientists claim that the port, factory, large prawn culture facility and a road through the beach's nearby mangrove swamps will interfere with the breeding season and lead to many being killed in fishing nets.

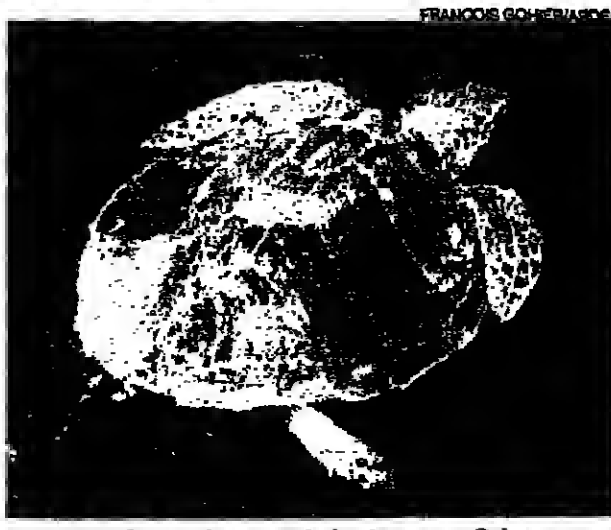
Professor Nicholas Mrosowsky, a British zoologist at the University of Toronto, said yesterday that research by the United States National Academy of Sciences had documented the devastating mortality of turtles from incidental catches by shrimpers. The mangrove swamps, which will be cleared for the road, are also a valuable source of food for the turtles. While a sea turtle can lay 100 eggs in a season, up to 99 per cent can fail. "Marine turtles also take a long time to

mature so the adults are very valuable to the next generation," Professor Mrosowsky said. Dr Karen Eckert, director of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network, a United Nations environment programme, said that the tragedy of the plan was that there were alternatives to the new port. Hundreds of scientists have written to the Indian authorities urging them to consider expanding port facilities at other, less harmful, coastal sites near by.

Professor Mrosowsky said it might be possible to promote the turtles as a source of protein for local people by harvesting a proportion of the eggs. Many are destroyed by digging as new waves of females arrive on the beach to lay their eggs. "It may be controversial but it could work if properly managed," he said.

The Indian government has reacted to the conservation campaign by amending regulations to prevent trawlers operating within 20km of the beach. It is also considering banning fishing between December 15 and April 15, when the Riddleys nest.

But conservationists claim that such moves will be impossible to enforce. Romulus Whitaker, of the Madras Crocodile Bank, who is monitoring the scheme, said that in spite of efforts by the minister of environment and forests in New Delhi the scheme appeared near to approval. "The ministry in Orissa is defiant and determined that the project goes through — the turtles be damned."



An Olive Ridley turtle in the sea at Orissa

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Adams shines

WITH time running out in which to determine the seven qualifiers in the PCA World Chess Championship at Groningen, The Netherlands, England's Michael Adams has moved into contention by winning a strategic masterpiece against the Bosnian grandmaster Ivan Sokolov.

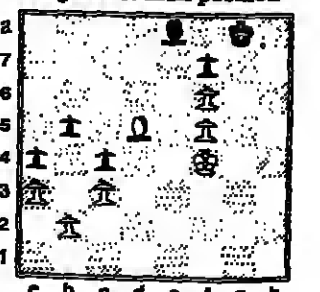
White: Michael Adams  
Black: Ivan Sokolov  
Groningen, December 1993

Ray Lopez

1	g4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	Bb7
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	g3	g6
9	c3	Nes
10	Bc2	c5
11	Nbd2	Nc8
12	Nf1	ds
13	Bx6	Qxd5
14	Bb3	Qd6
15	Qe2	Nd7
16	Ng3	Nf6
17	Nf5	Bb8
18	Ng5	Nf6
19	Qf3	Nf6
20	Ne4	Nf6
21	dxc4	0-0
22	Bc2	Nf7
23	Qg3	Nd5
24	g4	Sf6
25	h4	Kf8
26	g5	Bb7
27	Sd4	Rb8
28	Qd3	Rc1
29	Rd1	Qc7
30	0-0	Bc6
31	Bxf6	Qxf6
32	Qxf6	g6
33	Re4	Qg7
34	g4	Re8
35	g4	h6
36	Kg2	Rg8
37	Kg3	h5
38	g5	Re8
39	g5	Re7
40	g5	h5
41	g5	Rd7

42 g6+ Kf8  
43 Rxd7 Bxd7  
44 f4 exd4  
45 Kd4 Bb8  
46 Bc5 Bb8  
47 Kg4 Kf7  
48 Kg5 Kg8  
49 Kf4 Black resigns

### Diagram of final position



In the final position, Black cannot prevent the decisive penetration of his camp by the white king via e5.

With three rounds to go the leaders are Vishy Anand (India), with 6 points out of 8, and Michael Adams (England), Boris Gulko (USA) and Sergei Tivakov (Russia), all with 5.5. Among those on 5 are the early leader Alexander Beliavsky (Ukraine), Gata Kamsky (USA) and Vladimir Kramnik (Russia).

### Hastings

Britain's premier all-play-all tournament starts at Hastings today. Among the field are John Nunn, Matthew Sadler and the former Commonwealth champion Ian Rogers.

### Television chess

The final round-up from *The Times* World Chess Championship is on Channel 4 on Sunday, January 2, when the station's presenters challenge Kasparov and Short.

Winning move, page 32



NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed boy threatens pensioners

A boy threatened to shoot a group of pensioners in a park in London yesterday. The boy, who was about 10 years old, was seen with a toy gun and threatened to shoot the pensioners if they did not give him money. The police were alerted and the boy was taken into custody.

Disabled attack

A disabled man was attacked by a group of youths in a park in London yesterday. The man was taken to hospital with injuries. The police are looking for the youths who attacked him.

Murder charge

A man was charged with the murder of a woman in London yesterday. The woman was found dead in a park. The man is accused of killing her.

Charity jetdown

A charity plane landed in a park in London yesterday. The plane was carrying food and supplies for the homeless. The charity is collecting donations for the plane.

Students killed

Two students were killed in a shooting in a school in London yesterday. The students were shot by a gunman who was not identified. The police are investigating the shooting.

Loose

A dog was found loose in a park in London yesterday. The dog was a small terrier and was found by a child. The dog was taken to a vet and is now safe.

Bag

A bag was found in a park in London yesterday. The bag was a black leather bag and was found by a child. The bag was taken to a shop and is now for sale.

Turned

A man was turned away from a shop in London yesterday. The man was asked to leave the shop because he was not wearing a coat. The man was turned away from the shop.

Place

A place was found in a park in London yesterday. The place was a small wooden house and was found by a child. The place was taken to a shop and is now for sale.

# King Fahd unveils mild reforms amid rising economic storm



King Fahd: has chosen the all-male council's members

By Eve Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

THE Saudi royal family finally honours a 30-year-old pledge today when the kingdom's subjects are given a foothold on the country's political life. Sixty men selected by King Fahd will gather in Riyadh for the first meeting of a new council of citizens, which will advise the all-powerful House of Saud on a wide range of policies. The inaugural gathering of the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) comes as the first whiffs of economic hardship waft uncomfortably close on the desert air. In 1981, Saudi Arabia enjoyed a budget surplus of \$35 billion (£23 billion); last year it suffered a budget deficit of almost \$20 billion.

## The first meeting of an unelected council takes place in Saudi Arabia today. It marks the start of limited democracy, prompted by financial ills

Oil prices have hit a five-year low and the legacy of the Gulf War has been a hefty bill for nearly \$60 billion, much of it to meet the military's demands for more and better weapons. The worsening economic climate, coupled with a growing threat from fundamentalists posing as human rights champions, have helped persuade the royal family to give its subjects their first say in the country's affairs. The secretive and conservative family, with 4,500 princes in the inner circle, has dominated political life, with the repressive Muta-wara religious police keeping an iron grip on Muslim dissidents. The House of Saud first offered to establish the council in 1962, but it was not until March last year that concrete steps to set it up were announced. King Fahd was nonetheless careful to emphasise at the time that free elections were not Islamic or "suitable to our country". The Saudi people had "unique qualities" which made them "different from the rest of the world", he said. Although the powers of the council are strictly limited, the move is seen as highly significant in Riyadh and by Western governments, which have discreetly pressed for political reforms. The King has personally chosen the all-male council's 60 members, who will serve four-year terms and meet at least every two weeks to discuss matters referred to it. The council's deliberations will be kept secret — documents must not be removed from the council building — and members cannot speak for more than ten minutes without special permission. The council, however, could become an important platform for political debate. Western diplomats were surprised that so many professional men were selected as members; they had assumed it would be largely made up of tribal and religious leaders. Council members will also be full-time and salaried, and they are expected to debate a wide range of issues, including the budget, defence, foreign and social policies. The council's establishment finally brings Saudi Arabia roughly into line with other Gulf states, such as Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, which introduced political reforms after being criticised in the wake of the Gulf War. Kuwait, which like Saudi Arabia does not allow women to vote, has even named a female ambassador for the first time in its history. Nabila al-Mulla was sworn in as Morocco's ambassador to Zimbabwe yesterday as ambassador to Zimbabwe. In Riyadh the council's president, a former Justice Minister, has said the council will act as a partner to the government, although the King has the final say. The King has also named members of regional assemblies who will advise emirs on local matters. These assemblies, meeting every three months, are expected to gather after the council convenes on the national level. The reforms may be partly an attempt by the royal family to deflect criticism of the growing economic problems. The King may be able to blame the advice from the new organisations for any hardships which lie ahead, instead of the royal family's legendary extravagance. Despite its massive oil reserves, Saudi Arabia is now ranked as a middle-income country by the World Bank, with a per capita gross national product that is less than half that of Singapore.

# Israeli jets pound Hezbollah as hopes grow for PLO deal

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S air force bombed pro-Iranian Hezbollah targets in Lebanon yesterday while its negotiators in Cairo sought to bridge negotiating gaps with the Palestine Liberation Organisation that have set back peace arrangements in the occupied territories. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, predicted slow but steady progress in the Cairo talks during a tour of the northern border town of Kiryat Shmona. "There are still difficulties in the negotiations with the PLO on all of the matters in dispute," he said, but added: "It will be possible to overcome them in stages." Speaking a day after an Israeli soldier was wounded in southern Lebanon by a landmine, Mr Rabin warned Syria that it was not doing enough to stop Hezbollah attacks against Israeli troops. "I assume that the Syrians are able to trim [Hezbollah] activity, but I am convinced that they are not doing so... I am sure that, through direct means and their overall influence on the Lebanese government, they could do much more to calm the situation here." The tough

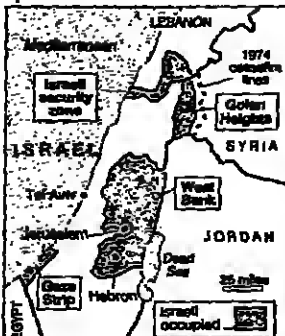
tone contrasted sharply with remarks by Mr Rabin in *The Wall Street Journal* recently that he expected President Clinton and President Assad of Syria to meet next month to discuss stalled Israeli-Syrian peace talks. Two Hezbollah guerrillas were killed and three wounded during Israeli air strikes yesterday in the Toubah region of southern Lebanon, security sources in Lebanon said. The strikes appeared to be in retaliation for the wounding of the soldier. Guerrillas responded by firing rockets at Israeli positions and at the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army, the sources added. A 16-year-old Jewish settler was charged yesterday with the murder of a Palestinian farmer, shot dead while ploughing his field in the occupied West Bank. Israeli army radio said. It said police were considering charges against two adults over the killing on December 9. In Cairo, Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, gave no hint of progress during a second day of talks with the PLO, but sought to dispel the impression that the two sides were at a dead end. Self-rule arrangements were supposed to be implemented two weeks ago, according to the September Israeli-PLO agreement, but have been held up due to differences over who will control border crossings, the size of Jericho and security arrangements for the Jewish settlers. "We are talking like friends," Mr Peres said after taking a break from the talks to confer with President Mubarak. "As far as we are concerned, we shall respect their dignity and, as much as we can, their needs. You know that our main concern is and will remain the concern for the security of Israel."

# Pact paves way for Pope's trip to Holy Land

FROM SARAH CUNNINGHAM IN ROME

Israeli and Vatican delegations will meet today in Rome to put the finishing touches to an historic agreement in which the two states will pledge themselves to establishing full diplomatic relations. Yossi Beilin, the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister, will attend a meeting of the Israel-Vatican commission which is expected to approve the "fundamental agreement" it has been preparing for 17 months. The signing of the accord should pave the way for the Pope to fulfil his wish to visit the Holy Land, taking up an open invitation by Israel's political and religious leaders. The last papal visit to Israel was by Pope Paul VI in 1964, just three days before the Six-Day War. The agreement, in which both sides commit themselves to fighting anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance around the world, will be the fruit of years of painfully slow rapprochement. The process began in 1965 when a Second Vatican Council document repudiated collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus Christ. Until then anti-Semitism had been enshrined in the Catholic liturgy for Holy Week — the week leading up to Easter — in which a prayer was said for "the perfidious Jew", an allusion to the denial by Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. The Holy See's pro-Palestinian sympathies have frequently drawn the anger of Israel, particularly when in

There is a history of indifference by the Roman Catholic Church to Jewish suffering. From the Middle Ages, Jews in many European cities were forced to live in ghettos, originally an Italian word, and they faced persecution when they strayed outside. From Rome's ghetto, no more than a mile from the Vatican, several hundred Jews were deported to their deaths in concentration camps during the Second World War. Dismissing some of those bitter memories, Pope John Paul II in 1986 visited the Rome synagogue in the city's ghetto and called Jews "our respected elder brothers". The departure last year of a group of Polish Carmelite nuns from a convent they had set up within the former concentration camp at Auschwitz on the other hand helped to ease relations with Israel and removed one of the stumbling blocks on the road to this week's agreement.



Children celebrating unseasonal midsummer snow in Canberra yesterday after building a snowman in blizzard conditions. The weather has made this the most miserable Christmas in memory. (Page 1)

# Russian plotter elected

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

ANATOLI Lukyanov, a former senior Soviet official on trial for his role in an abortive coup in 1991, has been elected to a temporary job in the new Russian parliament, Communist Party officials said yesterday. Almost 20 representatives of parties elected Mr Lukyanov as chairman of a temporary commission co-ordinating work among political groups in the Federal Assembly. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist Party deputy, said. He said that Mr Lukyanov, 63, was elected "almost unanimously" against the other candidate, Gennadi Burbulis, a former aide of President Yeltsin. Mr Lukyanov faces, with eight other former Soviet officials, a charge of high treason for his part in the attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet President. A credentials commission will decide whether Mr Lukyanov, who was elected as Communist deputy in the recent elections, is eligible.

# Saddam's closest aides suspected in bomb plot

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA



Saddam: unhurt in assassination attempt

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq escaped a well-planned assassination attempt in September that shocked his regime because suspicion has fallen on the Iraqi leader's inner circle, well-placed Iraqi sources said. According to reports now emerging in Baghdad, Saddam, 56, was unhurt in the roadside bomb attack, but one of his bodyguards was wounded. The attack was made as Saddam was riding in a seven-car convoy to a hastily arranged meeting with senior aides, including Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister; Taha Yassin Ramadan, Vice-President; General Ali Hassan al-Majid, Defence Minister; and Rashad Amin, Saddam's chief bodyguard. Al-Majid is Saddam's cousin. Amin is the Iraqi leader's brother-in-law. All these officials, long-serving members of Saddam's inner circle, have been questioned because few outside the meaning knew when and where it was taking place. One Iraqi source said: "Saddam may not necessarily suspect them, although he is even suspicious of his mother,

but it could be their aides or a leak in telecommunications." The meeting was apparently called by Saddam only hours before the attack. Reports of the incident suggest that explosives were hidden in a tractor abandoned on a road through the northeastern outskirts of Baghdad. Saddam is said to have been riding in a black armoured-plated Mercedes, fourth in the convoy. If confirmed, the assassination was attempted just nine weeks after an abortive military coup planned for July 17, which for the first time involved prominent figures within the ruling Sunni Muslim minority, disaffected by three years of trade sanctions. At least 60 senior military officers, police and government officials were reported to have been detained and interrogated during the investigation led by Saddam's youngest son, Qusay, 28, who heads his father's personal intelligence apparatus. Unconfirmed reports said as many as 20 senior army officers had been executed since September 24. Iraqi opposition groups, usually quick to make propaganda from reports of attempted assassinations or coups, said their groups were not involved. "The suspicion in Baghdad is that the plot was hatched within the regime, possibly with American support," the Iraqi source said. "It is puzzling the government because it thought the Americans would leave Saddam alone, especially now he is complying with some of the UN's demands."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Poll deals blow to Chirac's ambition

Paris: Jacques Chirac, the French neo-Gaullist leader, received another blow to his presidential hopes yesterday when a poll showed a majority of supporters of his RPR party would prefer Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, to get the nomination (Sean Mac Carthaigh writes). The poll, for *Globe* magazine, gave only 30 per cent of RPR voters willing to back M Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, while 56 per cent preferred M Balladur. Supporters of the RPR's coalition partner, the centre-right UDF, also backed M Balladur over their own party leader, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President. The magazine said 47 per cent French voters would have supported M Balladur for president if the election was held the day the opinion poll was taken.

## Mosques bombed

Davao: Unknown attackers bombed two mosques days after a grenade attack on a Roman Catholic cathedral, sparking fears of renewed Christian-Muslim violence in the Philippines. Police said five men and a 13-year-old girl were injured by a homemade bomb thrown into a mosque in this mainly Christian city. Almost simultaneously, gunmen fired a grenade at another mosque. Nobody was injured. (Reuters)

## Militants admit bus attack

Cairo: A Muslim fundamentalist group has claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a tourist bus that wounded 16 people, the *Al-Hayat* newspaper reported. The Islamic Group said the attack on Monday was to avenge the execution of Muslim militants. For the past two years, militants have been trying to overthrow Egypt's government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 275 people have died. (AP)

## Cash hope for nuclear victims

Washington: Hazel O'Leary, the American Energy Secretary, said that victims of radiation experiments in the United States during the 1940s and 1950s should be compensated. On Cable Network News she called on Congress to ascertain "with the American public what would be appropriate compensation". Ms O'Leary promised earlier this month to open classified files in line with a drive for more openness by her department.

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Russia expert with media skills joins White House trouble-shooters

# Clinton picks Oxford friend to salvage his foreign policies

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

BY APPOINTING Strobe Talbott, a former journalist and respected Russian scholar, as Deputy Secretary of State, President Clinton and Warren Christopher have taken a bold, although risky, step to counter persistent criticism of American foreign policy and the competence of those in charge of it.

Mr Talbott, 47, has never been elected to office, and he has less than one year's experience as a policy-maker. He was appointed by the President in February as a special ambassador to forge the Administration's policy towards Russia, a post that has been specially created to take account of Russia's importance. During his short period in office, the former *Time* magazine columnist, whose Yale thesis was on Russian poetry, has made his name as one of the most able members of the State Department's foreign policy team: he is credited with shaping one of the few areas of foreign policy which have escaped persistent criticism and which continue to enjoy bipartisan support. After the recent elections in Russia, which resulted in the strong gains by ultra-nationalists in parliament, Mr Talbott's expertise is bound to be even more in demand. Mr Talbott also

counts among the best of "the friends of Bill".

In 1969 the two men shared a room as Rhodes scholars in Oxford. After Oxford their professional ways departed. Mr Talbott joined *Time* as an East European correspondent in 1971 and wrote a number of books on the Soviet Union and, most notably, in the early 1970s a translation of Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs. He also wrote and co-authored several books about the Reagan Administration's foreign policy.

At *Time* he later covered the State Department and the White House, and in 1984 he became *Time* bureau chief in Washington. As editor-at-large he wrote about foreign affairs until his appointment in February to the post of "ambassador-at-large" in the State Department. In all those years Mr Clinton and Mr Talbott remained close friends. As Governor of Arkansas, Mr Clinton stayed at Mr Talbott's home when visiting Washington.

Mr Talbott is considered an excellent communicator, much liked and respected by his fellow journalists in contrast to Mr Christopher, a courteous man but a poor performer at news conferences and congressional hearings, who has received a

rough ride from the media. At this year's Tokyo Group of Seven summit, Mr Talbott, along with David Gergen, the President's counsellor, succeeded in creating the exaggerated impression of a "summit triumph" for Mr Clinton.

Mr Talbott's appointment is part of a wider shake-up in the State and Defence Departments and after strong criticism over the Administration's handling of the conflicts in Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti. The most prominent victim of the purge was Les Aspin, who had suffered criticism of his competence as Defence Secretary.

Mr Talbott will replace Clifton Wharton, who was the highest-ranking black official in the history of the State Department until he was asked to resign last month by Mr Christopher. The Secretary of State was apparently unhappy about his deputy's performance, although it is generally considered that Mr Wharton is not to blame for any of the Administration's foreign policy fiascos. Mr Talbott will have a more active role in policy-making, and will retain his responsibilities for Russia.

Mr Talbott's appointment has inevitably given rise to speculation, whether he is now the heir apparent to Mr Christopher, 68. After the recent shake-up at the Pentagon, Mr Christopher is unlikely to retire at this stage, but he might do so later during this Administration, by which time Mr Talbott could have accumulated enough experience to be a front-runner for the second most prestigious job in American politics.

□ Spy affair: Jonathan Pollard, an American serving a life sentence after being found guilty of spying for Israel, has tried to slip classified information into his letters from prison, according to a confidential memorandum written by Mr Aspin to President Clinton.

The memo, which was leaked to *The New York Times*, concludes with a recommendation that Pollard should not be given early parole, as has been requested by the Israeli government.

Policy-maker at helm, page 1



President Clinton waving as he set off to hunt duck in Maryland earlier this week

Mr Talbott, a former *Time* writer, who has been named Mr Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State

## Gun-toting President reloads for battles ahead

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IT MAY have been sheer coincidence, or a reflection of a more aggressive state of mind, when President Clinton this week spent \$41 (£28) on a gun licence, armed himself with a 12-gauge Winchester, and changed into camouflage gear to shoot ducks on the eastern shore of Maryland.

The politically incorrect hunt, to which a single duck fell victim, is in some respects a fitting way for Mr Clinton to end a year of controversy, which culminated with allegations of sexual adventures and his links to a Arkansas financial scandal. The latest embarrassment is a report in *The Washington Post* yesterday that Mr Clinton took federal tax write-offs of as much as \$15 for donating his long-johns to charity

■ President Clinton bagged a duck on a politically incorrect hunt, but he will face tougher opponents on Capitol Hill in a year filled with policy landmines

while Governor of Arkansas in the 1980s. Guidelines by the Salvation Army and Goodwill Industries, which accept donations of second-hand clothes, suggest Mr Clinton consistently valued his donations at significantly above their market value. *The Post* said Mr Clinton's proven ability to survive scandals might not save him from the difficulties to come in the new year and none more so than his proposed reforms of Arkansas's health care industry.

After the killing of the duck, Mr Clinton left for a brief holiday in Arkansas, where he is preparing for next year's work. The budget, which

is due in February, will include ferocious defence cuts to meet Mr Clinton's deficit reduction target. The debate on health care will begin on January 25 when the President delivers his State of the Union address, at the start of a new session of Congress. Welfare reform and a comprehensive crime Bill, which may include further changes in gun control laws, will also come up next year. Opposition to many of these proposed policies is building up on Capitol Hill, ahead of next November's elections of the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate, where vulnerable Democratic seats are at risk and where

enthusiasm is receding for "change", a word that has lost much of its magic. To push through his agenda, Mr Clinton will need at least as much resolve and political acumen as he displayed in the fight to secure the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, and the Brady gun control Bill this autumn.

There are strong doubts about his health care reform proposals. Middle-class Americans might suffer a lowering in the level of their health care provisions or higher insurance premiums, or both. The Republicans have united in strong opposition to the plan, drawing up counter-proposals which would not include the controversial employer mandate, under which the main share of the finance for health reform will be drawn from the corporate sector. The plan is also being challenged on the left. Jim McDermott, a Democratic congressman with the support of 93 colleagues, has proposed the single-payer system, which would move health care a step closer to Britain's National Health Service.

Mr Clinton's half-brother Roger, a small-time pop singer and actor whose antics frequently embarrass the White House, has said he intends to marry his reportedly pregnant girlfriend. Arriving with the President on board Air Force One for a holiday in Arkansas, the First Brother told reporters: "I'm getting married." *Time* magazine said this week that Molly Martin, 25, who lives with 37-year-old Mr Clinton in Redondo Beach, California, was due to bear their child in the spring, and that the President had therefore denied them a White House wedding. Mr Clinton earns a living warming up soap opera audiences with his band, Politics.

## Colony's investors shrug off threat by Chinese

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Hang Seng index leapt yesterday after Peking's declaration that, on the last day of British rule, Hong Kong's system of government will be expunged and a new administration installed.

Hong Kong's stock market index, which used to fall steeply at the slightest hint of political misfortune, rose 330.38 points to close at 11,570.22, the steepest one-day rise. Brokers were saying that now Sino-British relations had hit bottom, the market knew the worst. "The uncertainty is gone," a broker said.

But at Government House the Hang Seng rise was seen as a sign that Hong Kong believed the next three years would be stable, although an official spokesman called the Chinese threat destabilising.

Chris Patten, the Governor, is said to believe that if China dissolves the three tiers of urban councils, district boards and the Legislative Council after June 30, 1997 — which he doubts — then all Hong Kong will see how much better off it was under the British.

As for the Chinese warning that many senior officials, too, would not be permitted to ride "the through train" which enters Chinese administration on July 1, 1997, Mr Patten was in confident mood this week. He told a local newspaper that certain officials would be useful to the new rulers, especially Michael Sze, his Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, who has been criticised by Peking.

This is regarded as colonial cheek by the Communist-supporting press here. The newspaper *Wen Wei Po*, for example, accused Britain of attempting to maintain its rule after 1997 and said that no sovereign state would tolerate the extension of a colonial constitution; the new government would be a product of Chinese decisions and laws.

One Peking official here said all Hong Kong's laws would have to be vetted by committees consisting largely of Hong Kong citizens declared "loyal" by Peking, to see if they conformed with China's Basic Law for Hong Kong.

Allen Lee, a Legislative Council member and leader of the somewhat pro-Peking Liberal Party, said yesterday that the Governor had been wrong to say that Peking would never abolish the Hong Kong government, and urged Mr Patten to find an accommodation with China. But Martin Lee QC, also a council member and leader of the United Democrats, the largest directly elected party, charged the Chinese with violating their promises to keep Hong Kong largely independent.

In Peking yesterday, Zhu Rongji, president of the newly formed China Society for the Study of Human Rights, accused America of using human rights to pursue "power politics" and bully Peking. "China has become a major target of attack from Western countries on the issue of human rights. This is because some countries always want to use human rights to realise their own objectives."

□ For the tenth time since April, Chinese hijackers forced a passenger aircraft to fly to Taiwan. The hijackers, a couple and their 11-year-old child, displayed a fake bomb to force the aircraft, carrying 50 people, to fly from Ganzhou in south China to Taipei.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rao plans reshuffle over cash scandal

Delhi: P. V. Narasimha Rao, India's Prime Minister, will reshuffle his cabinet next month to drop two ministers tainted by an all-party report on the country's biggest financial scandal, political sources said yesterday.

Sources in the ruling Congress Party said it appeared very unlikely that Mr Rao would sack Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister and architect of India's radical market-oriented reforms, who offered his resignation over the report. Bankers and brokers have been accused of colluding to syphon money illegally out of the inter-bank securities market to fuel a stock market boom.

Congress MPs, businessmen and newspapers have urged Mr Rao to reject Mr Singh's resignation. The sources said that, unless Mr Singh insisted on going, it was almost certain he would present the February budget, expected to hasten the reforms. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13

## Pit strike ends

Sofia: Some 20,000 Bulgarian miners ended a 26-day strike after the government promised to devise a long-term policy that would guarantee jobs for those laid off by mine closures, trade union officials said. A demand for back pay was also met. (Reuters)

## Mafia raid

Palermo: Two people, including three policemen, were held in Sicily in a dawn raid by police investigating links between the Mafia and secret Masonic lodges. Vincenzo Inzerillo, a Christian Democratic senator, was told he was under investigation. (Reuters)

## Mao protests

Calcutta: A group of Indian Communists ransacked a British Airways office to protest against a BBC documentary which dealt with the sex life of Mao Tse-tung. Earlier they had protested outside British diplomatic offices. (AP)

## Polar search

Christchurch: Rescuers near the South Pole were trying to reach a member of a Norwegian expedition who fell down a crevasse. The man had been there for more than 40 hours and it was not known whether he was still alive. (AP)

## Troop rampage

Maputo: Mozambican soldiers looted shops and clashed with police in the northern town of Cuamba. *Noticias* reported. It said the protest was sparked by claims that October's pay cheques had still not been received. (Reuters)

## Suspect dies

Reykjavik: Edwald Hinriksson, an alleged Nazi war criminal suspected of having led a vigilante squad that persecuted Jews in Estonia during the Second World War, has died aged 82. He had lived in Iceland since 1946. (Reuters)

## Notes in tune

Medford: Bank notes worth \$140,000 (£55,000) were found in a piano left by the late barber of this Wisconsin town when the instrument's new owner sent it for tuning. The money, dating from the 1930s, will go to the estate of the dead man. (Reuters)

## Theme park dream fades as Disney's magic lamp loses its power

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES AND PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE entertainment empire that brought you Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and EuroDisney may be pulling in its horns, with far-reaching consequences for the southern Californian economy. Speculation has grown since the resignation of a key project director last week that Disney may be about to cancel a \$3 billion (£2 billion) theme park planned for the southern Los Angeles suburb of Anaheim.

Suffering severe rejection at Walt Disney's European theme park outside Paris which is under the threat of closure, the Disney name is no longer being embraced by Americans from coast to coast. Plans for an expansion to double the size of Disneyland are at least three months behind schedule and locals in the historic rural area of Prince William County in Virginia are fighting proposals for a thrill-rider park based on an American history theme. Both Anaheim and Prince William County are

balking at almost \$1 billion worth of concessions which Disney is demanding before the parks are built.

In California, Disney wants local taxpayers to stump up \$750 million, a third of which would pay for two of the world's biggest car parks capable of holding 30,000 vehicles which will be used largely by Disney tourists. Both Disney and a spokesman for Anaheim city council say talks continue, but Disney says it had expected agreement by now and no resolution to the talks until the spring, and says the project has been significantly delayed.

Anaheim has been offering Disney local concessions since it started in 1955. When the first Disneyland was proposed it was so enthusiastically embraced that the local council blocked off and diverted the main road to make way for the theme park. At that time there were 2,000 residents and 100 hotel rooms. Today the population is 285,000 with 14,000

Mickey Mouse, who ran up big debts in France; the *Queen Mary*, which failed to become "Port Disney"; and the Disney success, Donald Duck

hotel rooms and ten million visitors a year. But that number of tourists holds no excitement in Virginia, where Disney wants local residents to put up between \$60 million and \$100 million for its 3,000-acre park just outside Manassas, site of the Bull Run battles, among the most significant of the American Civil

War. The local tax bill could top \$2 billion if new roads are added in.

But local civic groups are confident their sustained opposition will mean the park is never built, despite Disney assurances that the park would yield \$1.86 billion in local revenue over the next 30 years. Christopher Miller, a

lawyer and member of the Piedmont Environmental Council fighting the project, said: "That's pipe dream. They've inflated the dollars out 30 years. We estimate that in 1993 dollars the local benefits would be no more than \$900 million over that time."

Michael Eisner, Walt Disney chairman and chief executive and among the highest paid directors in America, said that, if he did not get the concessions, the park would not be built. Mr Miller responded: "That runs contrary to their PR line. We think there should be careful analysis of Disney's plans, because there is pretty firm evidence from Europe that they have made

the Epcot Centre in Florida, on which the Anaheim project is based. Disney has an unhappy record in the Los Angeles area of launching projects — and raising hopes of badly needed investment — only to scrap them at the last moment. A \$611 million studio and shopping complex planned for Burbank, north of Hollywood, was aborted in 1988, and a \$2 billion plan to convert the *Queen Mary* into "Port Disney" came to grief two years later.

"They're going to have to stick with a project soon," says Evan Anderson Braude, a councillor of Long Beach, where the *Queen Mary* is berthed. "Otherwise they are going to get a terrible reputation for failed projects."

Other areas of Disney business tend to suggest otherwise. While the *Aladdin* movie and the *Jungle Book* video take Britain by storm, the *Aladdin* video has sold 21 million copies in North America since its release on October 1, making it the best-selling video of all time. It is made, marketed and distributed by Disney.



# Battered Sarajevo lights its candles of hope for peace

FOR the second year, Christmas has passed in Sarajevo with barely a halt to the interminable shelling, machine-gun and sniper fire which are as much a part of the daily diet as the meagre rations available on the streets of the besieged Bosnian capital. More than 30,000 have been killed or wounded since April 1992, and there is little sign that the killing will cease.

Yesterday hundreds of desperate Sarajevans gathered in the snow hoping to join the latest convoy organised by local authorities to evacuate Muslims, Croats and Serbs from the charred remains of their city. Previous attempts have often proved as futile as the diplomatic negotiations surrounding the Bosnian conflict, but the children and the elderly, the wounded and those others fortunate enough to be included seemed finally last night to be on the verge of freedom. Few will be sorry to leave a place that can be scarcely called a city any more.

After almost two years under siege, Sarajevo has become the final, tangible symbol of the futility of the conflict. On average, more than 20 people are killed each week while hundreds are injured. Electricity is scarce, water supply rare and, according to officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, most Sarajevans receive less than half of the food supplement they need to survive.

*As the first freedom convoy leaves the capital under siege, Tom Rhodes looks at the daily life endured by those not lucky enough to escape but who are determined to stay and fight for peace*



Yet behind the wrecked buildings, the misery of the hospitals and the overflowing cemeteries, there is still a powerful will to remain alive. Plays and musical evenings are still staged regularly, the television station still operates — despite having lost 30 of its staff this year — and *Ostobodjenje* (Liberation), the daily newspaper, is still printed against all odds.

On New Year's Eve, Bernard Kouchner, the French humanitarian aid organiser and former minister, will host an evening of music and singing by the depleted Sarajevo Orchestra and the city's choir. Organisation for the event will, in itself, be a triumph of planning over adversity. Entitled "A Candle of Hope", the musical evening will run in tandem with thousands of children throughout Europe placing candles on their window ledges as a simple act of

solidarity with the children of Sarajevo. "It's a very simple gesture, but it represents a flame being lit against intolerance, a flame so that all religions, races and people can live together," Dr Kouchner said last night.

The concert is coming from the opposite direction, to us, from the people of Sarajevo. They're the ones organising everything, it's their own orchestra, their own choir, singing on the first hour of the first day for peace and tolerance. Including works by Mozart, Fauré, Schubert and local composers, the evening will be graced by only one foreign artist: Barbara Hendricks, the American singer.

The concert, like Susan Sontag's production of *Waiting for Godot* before it, will certainly provide a focus for world attention but it can in no way be seen as anything more than a gesture. So fatigued has the world become by the horrors of even Sarajevo, that the daily statistics of death and destruction scarcely warrant a mention for many international broadcasters and publications.

Already the signals in the West are growing stronger for a withdrawal of United Nations protection forces. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said this week the warring factions would lose the incentive to reach a peace agreement if they believed that UN forces were to stay indefinitely.

For Sarajevo and the other so-called protected enclaves, the possibly imminent departure of UN forces would be the worst possible conclusion. Many Bosnians in Sarajevo believe that the Bosnian Serbs, with their greater artillery and manpower, could overwhelm their city with little difficulty. The only reason this has not happened, they say, is that Sarajevo remains the most important bargaining counter at the conference tables of Geneva and Brussels. In addition, the West sees the city's status as capital and its multi-cultural tradition as a vital key to ending the war — the only serious solution to relieve the continuing suffering. If Europeans leave Sarajevo to its fate, its citizens say, then they are washing their hands of Bosnia as a whole.



SARAJEVO

A mother and daughter waving from one of eight buses evacuating about 1,200 Muslim, Croat and Serb civilians from Sarajevo yesterday

Convoy on the move, page 1



## Muslim leader reconciled to divided Bosnia

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BOSNIA'S Prime Minister drew deeply on his cigarette, sighed and said he was reconciled to the break up of his country. Haris Silajdzic feels Bosnia has been betrayed by the West, and he worries about talk of peacekeepers pulling out if no deal is reached soon.

"The most painful thing for me is seeing the fathers of human rights turning away from what is clearly genocide," he said. "By pulling the thread holding Bosnia together, they are pulling apart civilisation in Europe."

Although the United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution in favour of lifting the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government, Mr Silajdzic knows it is an empty

made up of tribes. Small groups are arming."

Mr Silajdzic has little respect for the niceties of diplomacy. An aide interrupted him to say that President Izetbegovic was waiting to see him. "You deal with it, I'll be out later," he said. "I don't think I am the right man for this job. I am popular, not because I am Prime Minister, but because my attitude is not too diplomatic. I have seen too much brutality, so I dropped all the niceties. I was talking recently to some women who were pregnant because they had been raped. Not young women, old women. It really affected me."

"The Serbs and Croats have no free press. In Sarajevo we have a free press, yet we are seen as fundamentalists and they are seen as democrats."

"The politicians in Europe today just want to gain power for its own sake. They have no agenda. Are you a Superman if you have another million pounds? Superman to me is someone who helps others to live in peace."

During the Geneva peace talks in the summer, Mr Silajdzic often appeared to be angry with Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the European Union and UN negotiators. Now his attitude seems to have softened. "I don't want to be unfair to these two. The Arab-Israeli talks are not nearly as complicated as this. This involves three parties and they have a very tough job."

Mr Silajdzic hopes the next generation of European leaders will have "more ideals. I don't think the young will be happy to be fed Coca-Cola and jeans forever."

Does he ever have time to relax? "No. My favourite season is the autumn and this year I had only one afternoon to look at the trees and see them turning gold, and to think. My life has become slogans and sound-bites."

□ Zagreb: The UN said yesterday it was probing allegations that the Muslim-led Bosnian government army killed captured Croat soldiers and may also have murdered Croat villagers.

A United Nations Protection Force spokesman said it was also looking into Croat militia reports that Bosnian forces poisoned a reservoir and set fire to a bunker with Croat soldiers in it near Gornji Vakuf. (Reuters)



Silajdzic laments triumph of force

gesture. There is no chance that the Security Council will adopt the measure because Britain and France, which have veto powers, vehemently oppose lifting the weapons ban.

"Where is the principle of deterrence which has kept the peace for 50 years?" he asked. "They know the Serbs can be stopped only by force."

Mr Silajdzic, 48, who was promoted from Foreign Minister last month, says he is a sadder but wiser man after 20 months of war. "As a realist I am reconciled to the idea of ethnic division, but inside I know that what is going to come is not nice."

"In 1959 they said they didn't know what was happening to the Jews. Now they can't say that about Bosnia. Cosmopolitan Europe is an illusion — Europe is really

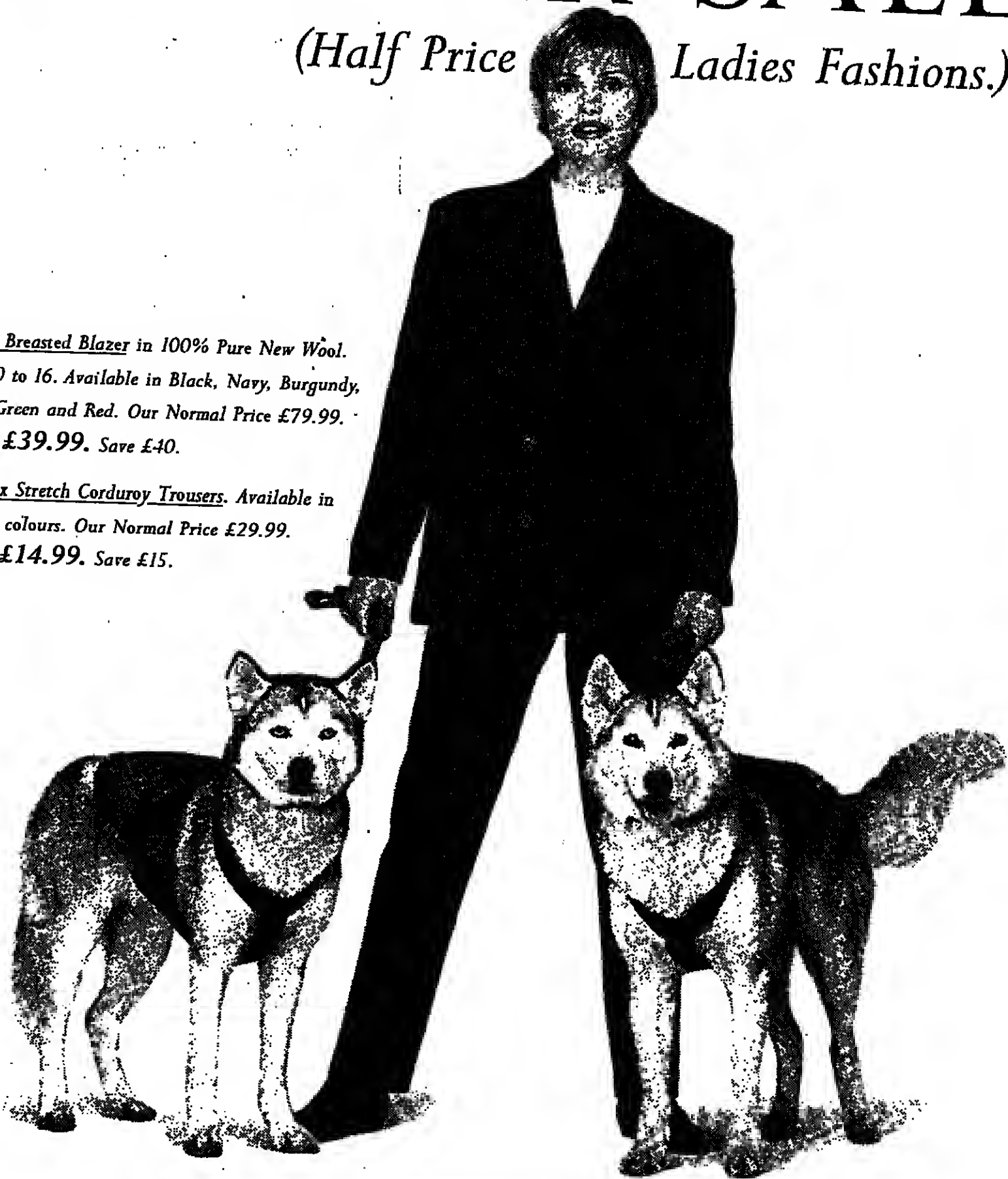


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Husbands with amnesia, tragic ballerinas who go blind, psychiatrists oozing sympathy — **Libby Purves** has been indulging her secret addiction, the Woman's Movie

the listings over these 14 periods there are no fewer than 42 films that are "in the neighborhood of 30 years old" in this particular category. One of these is *My Darling Clementine*, and many dating back to the 1930s. They are neither thriller nor comedy, not cops and robbers or cassies or family adventures—they are glorious schlock. Sentiment with a twist: films about strong women suffering in tattered jackets and hats with veils down the front: films about amnesia, bitter-sweet revenges, unhealthy obsessions, mésalliances, deceptions, and tragic ballerinas who go blind. Or have babies in secret, out of town, by dead war heroes and hide their heartache when another woman brings them up. They blur together, these films, but you know you have one when you see a title like *To Each His Own Dark Victory*, or *Tender Comrade*. You sigh, and sit back.

If you share this secret female vice, you will have had the *Now, Voyager* experience. This 1942 gem is worth watching as probably the definitive film of the genre. Bette Davis is a repressed spinster called Charles, dominated by her mother, who is a neurotic, homophobic psychiatrist (Claude Rains) and gets cured and made glamorous; whereupon she falls in love with Paul Henreid, only he is married with a problem daughter (Joiff, sniff) — and at the psychiatrist's clinic she falls in with the daughter, cures her in turn, and arrives at a heart-breaking arrangement whereby she looks after the child but may never be the father's lover. He demurs: at which point she speaks the closing line, and all of us join in from our sofas. "Don't ask for the moon — we have the stars". Pan to stars. This plot, combined with

**“W**hen I was a child,” she says, “powers of observation were needed because no one told you anything. We were forced back upon spying on adults by pretending to play paper dolls while secretly watching and listening. Fortunately our research was aided by the local movie house.”

Here, chewing popcorn in the plush darkness, she learnt what it was to be a female person. It was confusing but stimulating.

“Husbands were the most important thing in the world, but men were not to be trusted because they were always dying unexpectedly,

She admits that it never made much sense, but is free of feminist complaint. "Even as children we entered into the joyful conspiracy of movie-going," she says. "You were a fool to believe any of it, but you were a fool if you didn't. It didn't matter, because movies were really only about one thing: a kind of yearning."

Her analysis — exhaustively academic in the *American style* — lapses with refreshing frequency into hilarity and common sense. She rejects feminist objections about the fact that love and marriage are seen as women's best destiny. "If you're in a mass market, you plug into a mass

They were expressing women's frustrations at being confined.

"These women were strong. They got into those furs, those skirts that do up at the side, there was a kind of lunacy about their overdressed success, the way they said 'I'm gonna put on a big hat and I'm gonna get in there and edit that newspaper!' Even if they do make the cookies in the end."

One of her favourite themes is that of the Bad Girl. Despite the overly pious message, the bad girls of the movies had a powerful appeal. "Scarlett is more interesting than Melanie. Sometimes the good girl gets to cope with life by lowering her neckline, but more

**T**he good one gets the handsome lighthouse keeper — but the twin impersonates her and the man says ‘Gee, you’re different tonight, before you were like a cake without the frosting, and a man kinda likes the frosting’ — and she marries him, the bad one — then she drowns and the good one is left clinging to the wedding ring, and pretends to be her.

“See?” says Ms Basting. “It’s tremendously interesting. The fe-

As Ms Basinger astutely points out in the book, "Men in the movies, as in life, seem not to know what women want. With the nota-

So now, he earnestly asked the Corwin-Puller Professor of Film Studies, have we deserved today's passive, bimboesque or psychopathic heroines?

"Believe me," replies Ms. Basinger mournfully. "I don't know. But research shows that the most typical American filmgoer is a teenage boy. Perhaps also, once we got the Pill, women's lives got closer to men's. You open my refrigerator today and you are maybe looking at cowbells, but hey, we survive, we send out for a pizza. And the social structures got easier, you don't get thrown out in the snow with your

● **A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women 1930-60**, by *Jeanine Basinger*, will be published by *Chatto & Windus* on *January 17 (£14.95)*.

## مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



John Grigg on political events that should have provoked searching debate in 1993

## Small story, big issue

The big media stories of the moment often seem grossly exaggerated in retrospect, while stories that have received comparatively little attention may come to seem far more important. It probably will be difficult for posterity to understand the amount of space — in many newspapers, column-yards rather than column-inches — given to the Princess of Wales's speech at the London Hilton Hotel on December 3. Yet there are stories relating to the British monarchy that deserve to be extensively covered, at any rate in the serious press.

One is the constitutional argument in Australia resulting from prime minister Paul Keating's declared intention to turn the country into a republic by the end of the century. The republic advisory committee that he set up reported in early October, suggesting a number of options for the implementation of his policy. These reflected differences of opinion among the committee's members but, since only avowed republicans were appointed to it, the policy itself was not called in question.

It is, however, being increasingly questioned outside, not least in a powerful little book by an Australian history professor, Alan Atkinson (*Mud-Headed Republic*, OUP, Melbourne). Atkinson, a former Fulbright scholar, who is associate professor at the University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, argues that the Keating policy "involves not only alienating large numbers within the Australian population, but also driving home the lesson that they belong to the condemned past".

He puts forward four options of his own for the future, including the republican option and the *status quo*. The others are that "the Queen, and her successors, might be asked to spend a substantial part of their time in Australia, say two months each year"; or that

"the Queen might be asked to agree to participate in changing the order of succession, so that the monarchy in Australia passes to another branch of the royal family".

The last option is clearly the one he favours, since it "would presumably have the support of Australian monarchists", and "might be acceptable to a number of republicans". This "new and separate monarchy would be reshaped to Australian specifications so as to make it much simpler and cheaper than the British model".

Having proposed this option myself in the past, as well as the one involving periods of residence by the Queen in Australia, I am naturally interested to see them now emanating from an authoritative Australian source. The *status quo* under which the Queen of Australia visits the country only occasionally, as a tourist, is largely responsible for the growth of republican feeling.

The change to a republic could anyway only occur after a referendum, in which a majority would be needed not only in the country as a whole but in each individual state. At present even an overall national majority is doubtful, granted that a recent poll has shown only 29 per cent of Australians aged 50 or over supporting a republic, and no more than 45 per cent support for it among younger adults. Moreover, in at least two states, Queensland and Western Australia, the chances of a majority for it are probably much lower.

Another significant news story from Down Under, hardly noticed here at the time, was New Zealand's referendum on November 6, which decided that the country should change from the first-



Campbell: votes spread too thin

past-the-post system of election to the German form of proportional representation (PR). In a straight vote between the existing system and the German (itself chosen by referendum last year as the preferred form of PR if there were to be a change) New Zealanders voted by 54 per cent to 46 per cent in favour of the German system. The change will be implemented within the next 18 months.

Opponents of electoral reform in Britain have made much of Italy's return to first-past-the-post, ignoring the crucial point that the Italian PR system was vitiated by the lowness of the threshold (2 per cent) qualifying a party for representation in parliament. The German system, with its higher threshold (5 per cent), has produced none of the ill effects that were seen in Italy.

In any case we can less easily disregard the example of New Zealand which, though geographically the most remote, is in other respects the closest to us of all the British-derived nations. More than once it has blazed a trail that we have followed. It was the first of these countries to give women the vote, and its scheme of old-age pensions (based on general taxation, not insurance) was copied by Lloyd George when he introduced them here in 1908. That New Zealand should now have turned to PR may be an augury for our own future.

The perverse effect of first-past-the-post has never been more dramatically exhibited than in the Canadian election at the end of October. This made the front pages of our broadsheets at the time, if only because the spectacle of a governing Conservative party reduced from 154 seats to two was an obvious *memento mori* to the Conservative Government here. But the full significance of the result has yet to sink in.

The Canadian Progressive Conservatives, led by Kim Campbell, were virtually eliminated from the House of Commons despite receiving 16 per cent of the national vote, while the Reform Party won 52 seats with 18 per cent and the Bloc Québécois 54 seats with only 14 per cent. The reason for this grotesque

distortion is that the strength of the last two parties was more concentrated than that of the Progressive Conservatives, who were in effect heavily penalised for being a truly national party.

The *memento mori* of this result applies not only to Britain, but even more, perhaps, America, though I am not aware that it has, as yet, provoked any searching debate there. America is another vast country with a federal constitution and a traditional drapery of power, with which the electorate shows signs of becoming disillusioned. Ross Perot's 19 per cent vote in the last presidential election was the largest for a third-party candidate since 1912 — when a former president, Theodore Roosevelt, ran as an independent.

But Perot, like the Canadian Conservatives, suffered from having a nationwide vote, spread too thin for him to win a single state. The danger for the future in America is likely to come from the ethnic factor, on the analogy of Quebec.

Among America's population of 250 million, two ethnic minorities together account for one-fifth of the total: the blacks, or African-Americans, total 30 million, and the Hispanics 22 million.

Neither is so concentrated, geographically or politically, as the French Canadians, but in many states one or the other has a power-base similar to that of the Reform Party in the western provinces of Canada.

If either or both of these big ethnic minorities were to act independently, and still more if they were to act together, the Republican-Democrat duopoly would be broken and American politics would be transformed.

One superpower has already dissolved into a welter of ethnic conflict. The risk that the other might do the same way, though for various reasons less grave, can hardly be discounted.

## Charity begins with a royal

I used to be simple. In America, they have film stars. Here, we have royalty to add glam and glitz to what would otherwise be dreary charity events. We happily sign away our Christmas bonuses in the knowledge that we will rub royal shoulders and perhaps even press the regal palm at some bash/ball/lunch at the Savoy/Hilton/Ritz.

But now the Princess of Wales has officially bowed out of public life. This is bad news for the socially aspiring, but absolutely terrible news for the 114 charities of which the Princess is patron or president. They include Relate, formerly the Marriage Guidance Council, the National Aids Trust, Barnardo's and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Charity officials have been doing their sums. Last year, Vivienne Parry, in the *Handbook to the Season*, published by Veuve Clicquot and Taitler, worked out how the choice of Royal Patron dictates the ticket prices of charity balls. The magic words "In the presence of HRH the Princess of Wales" guarantees at least £200 a ticket for the charity. The same goes for the Queen. The Princess Royal justifies £75 a ticket; Princess Margaret and Princess Michael of Kent £50 a ticket.

No one has quite calculated the cost of the Princess's exit stage left. She attended 235 engagements in 1992, many with her favourite charity organisations. Her new engagements list, to be published in January, will show a big reduction. The Princess's



RACHEL KELLY

contribution to charity fund-raising runs into millions. As a leading figure in the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal — she laid the foundation stone of the new building that it funded — she must take credit for helping to raise much of the £54 million.

It was not ever thus. Over the past decade, the rules of royal fund-raising have subtly changed. Until quite recently, no senior royal would head an appeal for money. They could be identified with a charity, but it was considered inappropriate metaphorically to rattle a collecting tin and ask for cash on the nail, please.

The Duke of Edinburgh broke with convention in his work for the World Wide Fund for Nature. In turn, younger members of the firm followed his example. The machine is now finely-tuned. Charities can expect two sources of revenue from a royal event. First, ticket sales; second, lump sums, averaging £5,000 to £10,000 from donors who in return will be in a presentation line to meet the royals. The convention is for the charity to inform Buckingham Palace about the reason for the "sponsor's presence", the relevant royal will be briefed and the sponsor will receive his or her word of thanks.

Without the Princess, charity balls will be sadder and cheaper events. No one, the charity world agrees, can match her allure. As Ewa Lewis, social editor of *Tatler*, has said: "The Princess of Wales is the biggest crowd-puller." She can transform an unfashionable charity (Birthright) into a fashionable one; take an unappealing cause (Aids) and make it appealing. Her presence guarantees newspaper coverage; her style ensures social cachet.

Who can replace her? One obvious answer is other royals. A new crop of younger royals have yet to be fully tapped for the royal pulling power. The recently married Lady Helen Taylor comes with a young, racy set that includes Cosima von Bulow, the Marchioness of Milford Haven and Robert Hanson. She has already begun to be involved with charity work for the Trevor Jones Trust for Spinal Injuries and various Aids charities. Greater involvement could scoop up more of the younger generation of ladies who lunch.

The new Viscountess Linley could follow the example of her mother-in-law, Princess Margaret, who has a good record for charitable work. In time, the princes William and Harry will undoubtedly play their part. The young Wills is already learning to take his charitable responsibilities seriously and visited a centre for the homeless with his mother earlier this month.

But that is the future. At the Charities Aid Foundation in Tonbridge, Kent, staff keep two lists of supporters to charities. One is headed "Royal"; the other "Celebrities". Celebs divide between sports stars (for example, Frank Bruno, Vasek Sanderson and Gary Lineker); showbiz (Joan Collins, Yasmine Le Bon); and the aristocracy (Lady Tyron, Lady Brocket, the Countess of Buckinghamshire).

Until the young princes grow up, there will be a real gap in the royal patronage power which combines the fun and style of youth with good works. Celebrities meanwhile will have to plug the gap. But there are dangers. Any old famous person assuaging their guilt at being famous may be inappropriate for some charities. Second-class celebrities could imply second-class charitable causes. The joy of the Princess of Wales was that she guaranteed that any charity she touched must be worthwhile. Cause celebs will not be the same with her departure.

## It was the year of the cad

They see themselves as glamorous desperadoes doing as they please in a boring world. Julia Llewellyn Smith on the return of the bounder



Darius Guppy: amazed that his crime was detected

Not so long ago a gentleman who told the world that his fiancée was a "silly old tart" was a gentleman facing the social gog. Old school friends would have turned away when he entered the club, his mantelpiece would be stripped of invitations and he would be constantly glancing over his shoulder, anticipating the arrival of a horse-whip-wielding brother. Today, however, such behaviour is more likely to be rewarded with half a dozen newspaper interviews, offers of book contracts and a regular slot on the Box with ITV's *This Morning*.

Such, at any rate, has been the lot of Broderick Munro-Wilson, a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, former Grand National gentleman jockey and now a merchant banker. Mr Munro-Wilson achieved his spurious fame after receiving a suspended sentence for harassing his former fiancée Samantha. Mr Munro-Wilson said: "With your background, social standing and education, even now one would expect you to behave like a gentleman and not like a cad, which is the way you have behaved."

It seemed like a strange, old-fashioned accusation and Mr



The Marquess of Blandford: in and out of the headlines for a series of misdemeanours

have counted as a cad if he had not wanted so much to be a gentleman. Diggle convinced most people he was of upper-crust Scottish stock and was a public school boy when, in fact, he had lived all his life in Bolton.

When confronted by the woman he tried to rape and her friends, he said: "This is so ordinary and you people are so boring. You obviously did not go to public school."

All cads share this conviction that they are special people and that rules are for dullards. According to friends, Darius Guppy, who in March was jailed for five years for his part in a £1.8 million games syndicate, had always seen himself as a romantic figure, prone to challenging love rivals to duels and driving

around in a black Mercedes with the James Bond theme blasting through the windows.

A contemporary of his at Oxford said: "He endlessly repeated that it was a boring time in which to live and it was up to people like us to create our own adventures." Police said Guppy was amazed that his crime was detected. "He didn't think a mere policeman could catch him," said Detective Inspector Peter Avery, who headed the investigation.

It is this arrogance, on top of his crime, which singled Guppy out as a cad *par excellence*. In this, however, he was outdone by the Marquess of Blandford, who was in and out of the headlines all year for interminable misdemeanours.

The heir to Blenheim Palace and a £100 million fortune has already twice been jailed for speeding and possessing heroin. This year assorted transgressions included refusing to pay tax fares, withholding maintenance from his estranged wife and going on the run from the police.

Yet Blandford appears unabashed by his record, seeming to think that it casts him in the role of a glamorous desperado. "One has to live dangerously otherwise life would be so mundane," he said recently, when on the run. "Of course I am not going to give myself up. We are a family of winners, not losers. I will do like my great ancestors would have done."

These men are clear fantasists yet some people are taken in by

them. Guppy's wife Patricia is standing by him, while Blandford has managed to engage the affections of a former Heathfield head girl, Arabella Zamoyka, aged 19 to his 37. Miss Zamoyka's devotion is baffling but touching. "I have said to him that if he goes back to drugs, he knows damn well that he will lose me," she says. "I make those threats to James because I must. But knowing me, even if he does slip back I'll probably still be there for him."

A similar startling devotion is shown by Jane Clark, wife for 35 years of former Tory minister Alan, whose diaries, published

Cads get off lightly. They all share the conviction that they are special people and that rules are for dullards

earlier this year, may well become the cad's Bible. With a total disregard for discretion or loyalty, the gentleman's favourite virtues, Mr Clark spared nobody, repeating private conversations and tearful confidences word for word. Subtlety is not a virtue of Mr Clark's. Tom King is described at one point as a "loathsome piffball". Mr King was his friend.

Such comments are bad enough, but they pale compared to the treatment meted out to Mrs Clark. Mr Clark has had affairs with scores of women, he tells us, and fantasised about affairs with literally hundreds more. Mrs Clark appeared unfazed by what others saw as a very public humiliation. "I know he's an S-H-one-T but that's it," she said on television.

And so the list goes on. There was Bryce Taylor, owner of a gym frequented by the Princess of Wales, who betrayed her trust by taking photographs of her working out and selling them to the *Daily Mirror*. There was Steven Norris, another Conservative minister, and his string of mistresses; and there was Genna, a supposed sporting hero and ambassador for Britain, belching into an Italian reporter's microphone.

Italy was understandably horrified. "How was it possible for an Englishman? The sporting Briton? The Englishman of the handshake and fair play?" thundered the prestigious Turin daily *La Stampa*. The British may be forgetting what the world gentleman means, but the rest of the world still seems to expect a nation who knows that there are some things which are simply "not done".

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## Alan Coren



I may not quite have got the thread of the story, but it was a great film.

It's a quarter to three, no one in bed except Bing and me, but will be able to loose off a sharpish depth-charge and put paid to Groucho's U-bow before Sean and Ingrid Connery get to the second chorus of *White Christmas* — that is the question. At least, that is the question when the quarter-to-three is the one you get on December 28 after four days of hurling non-stop from room to room because everyone is watching a different movie, and you want to watch all the movies, too, but you are the host and you have to turtle from room to room about your hosting business, who's for a turkey-and-gherkin sandwich, anyone need their drink freshening, anyone fancy charades, what about a hot mince pie, Monopoly, Scrabble, shall I put the kettle on, hey, what do you say to Cluedo, and by the way does anyone know the couple sleeping in the boiler-room, and while I'm here, how many for cold chippolatas? — and now it is 2.45 am on Christmas Tuesday, i.e. the day before the eve of pre-New-Year's Eve, and you are lying here trembling, dyspeptic, hung-over, insomniac, racked by *delirium yulens* and staring at a ceiling which has all these images flickering across it, oh, look, here comes dear old Ebenezer Finney, why has he suddenly turned into a fly, he will never pull Catherine Deneuve now, flies are not her type, can it be that some bastard has got his hands on the Kryptonite and is mucking his super-molecules about, if so he will not only fail to pull Catherine Deneuve, he will in all probability be too late to persuade Whoopee Goldberg to team up with Fred Astaire for one last desperate crack at preventing the Chicago White Sox from snatching the 1919 World Series from under the very noses of the Railway Children, doesn't it break your heart, every day they run down to the OK Corral to see if their darling daddy is back from Vietnam yet, but their darling daddy is never coming back from Vietnam, he has met Michael Palin on Mont Blanc and they have fallen inextricably for one another, this will be bad news for darling mummy, she will be forced to shack up with Harold Lloyd and before you know it her kids will be the Clock Children, every day they will have to run down to the corner of 34th and Broadway to see if their new darling daddy has fallen off the mainspring yet, but hang on, stone me, that is not Harold on the big hand at all, that is Patrick Swayze, what is he doing up there, I thought he came back from the dead to dance with Ginger just one more time in the hope of heading Josie Clintwood off at the pass and thereby preventing him from turning up uninvited on the night before Katharine Hepburn's swish Philadelphia wedding and running away with her, it would never work, especially as she now seems to have turned into Audrey, she would be far better off sticking to Woody Allen, he may not be Cecil Parker, but when he pulls Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang round to the front door, pops Lassie in his lap, and warbles "They Can't Take that away from Me", what woman could resist?

Then again, he may be Cecil Parker, I suddenly find myself unsure, the thing is his face was somewhat obscured by the corks dangling round his hat and the crocodile he was wrestling, that is the kind of problem you can so easily run up against in St Petersburg if you are dumb enough to sit down at the card-table with Harpo Marx, never mind having Edith Evans creating an unwarranted diversion by banging away on her Bofors gun at Richard Arlen's Sopwith Camel, if you ask me she should never have left Jeremy Irons, the experience has clearly unhinged her, and it did precious little for him either, if his peculiar behaviour aboard the Starship Enterprise is anything to go by. Can't think about that now, though: I see from the ceiling clock that the little hand is nearly on 7, and Patrick Swayze is nearly on 11, it is hardly worth trying to get to sleep now, I could sneak downstairs before anyone else wakes up and have a plate of fried eggs and turkey and eat it all to myself, I seem to recall from *The Sunday Times* that at 7.05 am, BBC2 is showing Mr Lucky, seductively posed as a film in which "Cary Grant plays a gambling ship owner who escapes the draft and tries to swindle a charity run by a rich heiress to pay for refitting his vessel". Sounds just my sort of thing.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky's rise has given Moscow's intellectuals pause for thought, says Anne McElvoy

## Is tyranny rooted in the Russian psyche?

Whose fault is Vladimir Zhirinovsky? Like the village intruder Beetzub in Gogol's short story "On the Eve of Christmas", he arrived with malicious bad timing in the waning days of the year, when Russians were anxious to put politics out of their minds and concentrate on laying in the stocks of New Year *Champanskoye*. Since his election success, he has bounced around Moscow threatening the revival of the Soviet Union, subjugation of non-Slavs and the end of Western-style reforms — the post-communist equivalent of turning the milk sour and cracking the mirrors.

The result is that the toasts in the dachas of Moscow's intelligentsia are subdued, and the prospect is that whatever else 1994 may hold in store, it is likely to contain a lot of Mr Zhirinovsky. His rude energy seems boundless.

This week he took off on his Aero-fleet broomsick to spread his mischief abroad. So far he has visited a former Waffen SS soldier in Vienna, told the Italians that Russia owns a superweapon capable of destroying the West, and upset the Bulgarians by calling on them to take on a key role in the Balkans and absorb Macedonia. Whatever misdemeanours one can accuse him of, hiding his intentions is not one of them.

Mr Zhirinovsky has smashed the

fragile harmony of the last months in Moscow. But he was only able to succeed in so doing because it was a sham peace. The gap between the government's verbose commitment to a less and less clear programme of economic restructuring and the population's fears about its effects on their wellbeing was becoming intolerably wide.

Now Russia's real liberals are being forced to explain the "Zhirinovsky phenomenon" (how he must love this description), and to suggest ways to deal with the neo-fascist "Liberal Democrats" in parliament and to hinder their leader's ambition of succeeding Boris Yeltsin as president.

Many can no longer find the words which before December 12 poured so glibly from their lips, in set formulae such as "irreconcilable opposition", "hardline threat" and "support of the Russian people". Others are indulging in a rictus of blame. It is the fault

of the ignorant masses who believed the demagogue's sweet lies rather than endure bitter truth, runs one widely held thesis. It is the fault of state television's management for allowing Mr Zhirinovsky so much screen-time, enabling him to cut a dashing swathe through the democrats' platitudes, say others. But he alone showed the consummate politician's instinct of pinpointing the nation's fears and insecurities and addressing them. In this sense, the sane politicians could learn a lot from a mad one.

There is panic in the air, and it is not only those professionally involved with the task of reforming Russia who feel personally threatened by Mr Zhirinovsky. His ascent has caused a cold shiver among the country's intelligentsia, who fear with some justification that he could attempt to create a society as repressive as the Soviet one. Everyone who values tolerance, choice and freedom of speech felt the

force of the ugly message he hurled at a table of his opponents on election night: "This is not your party, this is your wake."

But Mr Zhirinovsky has played on an anti-intellectualism espoused by the present administration in order to shield it from the criticism of former allies. One of the telling dislocations over the last year has been that between the intelligentsia and reformist politicians. Mr Yeltsin's failure to maintain links with the grassroots pro-democracy movement which helped him to power not only shows ingratitude, but risks losing a constituency traditionally important in Russian society.

Over the past two years, there has been little room in the Kremlin for thinkers other than economists. Bulat Okudchava, a gentle sage-cum-poet, irritated the radicals with his pronouncement, "We are all still Bolsheviks somewhere in our hearts" and his warnings that totalitarianism is

rooted in Russian society, the more dangerous for being unacknowledged. His views were dismissed without discussion as the work of pessimistic detractor by an ascendancy which failed to distinguish between a proper sense of purpose and a smug presumption of the moral, political and economic high ground.

Blaming the rulers is an old and easy Russian habit, which has long preserved intelligent members of the population from uncomfortable examination of their own role in shaping events. To charge politicians with failing to convince the nation of the advantages of democracy over dictatorship is to tell only half the story. One simple reason for the extreme right's success is that only 33 per cent of Russians voted. People did not consider democracy still so vulnerable as to need defending at the ballot box, and together carelessness they left ajar the door to extremism.

The sudden emergence of a chilling alternative has at least made clearer the value of freedoms only recently gained but rapidly taken for granted. As the old proverb has it, the pike in the river is there to stop the carp from falling asleep. The prospect of Mr Zhirinovsky's uneven dentistry bearing down on them may yet, when the thrashing is done, remind Russia's democrats — big and small — how much they have to lose.

## Only the parents can decide

Bringing new life into the world is the most intimate of decisions, and should be no concern of meddling governments



Rosanna Della Corte, who has become pregnant at 62, with her husband and the doctor who helped them

without a shred of knowledge of the parents, that this upbringing will be worse, indeed so awful that the births should have been prevented, is insufferable. What business is this of anyone else's?

The world is full of children sired out of wedlock, or by absent fathers, or brought up by grandparents, orphaned, fostered, even abandoned. In my experience, older couples tend to make more stable and loving homes than younger ones. There are fewer divorces among people in their fifties than among those in their twenties. Relatives, perhaps even doctors, might seek to discourage couples of all ages from having children in undesirable circumstances. Some children of elderly parents might wish they had never been born, though I doubt it. But the ultimate responsibility lies with the parents, and the parents alone. This is the most intimate of decisions.

Mrs Bottomley disagrees, and insists that her great clodhopping department must immediately intervene, with the backing of Brussels. She declares — is

Simon Jenkins

this a cabinet decision? — that a British woman has "no right to a child". But who has usurped this right? The answer is, central government under the banner of its "family values" campaign. If age is now a criterion by which central government decides whom science may assist at birth, what other criteria are on the agenda? There must be a case for banning teenage pregnancy, on the statistical evidence that the children may experience a broken home. Certain genetic features may also be unwelcome: for instance, a history of mental illness or disability. Perhaps HIV or addicted parents should be impeded from con-

ceiving. As women seek what they wrongly thought was their right by getting treatment abroad, will Mrs Bottomley pursue and prosecute them throughout Europe? All this from the party of parental choice!

No incident has set a grimmer seal on a year in which a cynical Conservative party has adopted the conventional family as its totem. At the party conference, single mothers were vilified as "worse" parents — by politicians whose neglect of their own children renders their wives single in all but name. The marital mistortures of the Royal Family have been made a subject of political comment — by politicians whose own marital mishaps are put down to "the pressures of the job".

Most outrageous has been the affair of the Child Support Agency. Here, government has usurped not only the right of couples to agree divorce settlements between themselves, but also their right to have a court ratify such settlements. This right has been shifted to government, ostensibly to cut the

cost to the Treasury of family support. Picking up the bill for the breakdown of families is certainly expensive, but for better or worse it is what social security is for. It may need reform. So be it. But mothers do not have to reform to spite the Treasury. Fathers do not get divorced to infuriate Mr Lilley or Mrs Bottomley. Divorce is not a tragedy, but the outcome of a tragedy, an ill-judged marriage. The government has responded not by cutting entitlement, but by deciding for itself how each tragedy shall be handled.

The effect is that every British child has been rendered an object of potential ward of central government. The social security secretary, Peter Lilley, acting through his Child Support Agency, has the power to put every father's income at the mercy of a state official. The father's status as a taxpayer is subordinated to his status as parent — and he can get no redress in any court. This is an astonishing extension of state power over individual rights.

Wishing that young people behaved better, towards children is one thing. Treating every aspect of family life as a matter of government policy is another. Mrs Bottomley and Mr Lilley are drifting in a deeply un-Conservative direction: towards a belief that there is no realm of personal behaviour in which government does not have the right to intervene. If a woman chooses to have children outside marriage, then government must act. If couples persist in divorcing and remarrying, then government must act. If women postpone having children until after they have begun or even completed their careers, then government must act. The one phrase that must never pass a ministerial lip is "This is not a matter for government."

The essence of in-vitro fertilisation, for mothers of whatever age, is that it has granted them a personal freedom. Medical science has done its duty. It has offered women choice, as it long ago offered them the choice of painless childbirth. Such choice can be taken as well as joyful. Choice often is. Some people clearly find the choice unenvying, even threatening. Much of the comment on the 59-year-old mother has seemed to be rooted in envy. How dare she get away with the happiness of both a career and a family? How dare she exercise the choice? The answer is that she does have the choice, and she dares to exercise it. Politicians are wrong to deny it, and to pander to the envy, ignorance and hypocrisy of others who would do the same. They are even more wrong to claim that the choice properly lies with them. This is patronising and interfering. Ministers recently made great play of not having their private lives intruded upon by a prurient public. I wonder how one 59-year-old feels about Mrs Bottomley's intrusion this Christmas. I wonder how two children will one day feel about those who tried to stop them living.

## Forgive and reward

IF John Profumo is knighted, or even ennobled, in the New Year's honours list, it will be seen as a reward for 30 years of tireless charity work in London's East End. There remains, however, the distinct possibility that any honour will herald fresh embarrassment for Profumo — coinciding as it would, with the release under the 30-year rule of government papers covering the events that brought about his downfall.

The 1962 scandal, which resulted in Profumo, then War Secretary, being forced to resign after lying to Parliament about his relationship with Christine Keeler, is now an irrelevance, say his friends. Indeed, if current moral standards of government had applied, they say, he could have stayed in office indefinitely. Lord Denning, who chaired an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding Profumo's resignation, says he would be "absolutely delighted" for Profumo to be made a lord. "All he has done should be recognised. I should be

very much in favour of it." Author Philip Knightley, who wrote about the affair six years ago in *An Affair of State: The Profumo Case and the Framing of Stephen War*, believes that "the time is right for a peerage. The whole thing was a storm in a teacup anyway. There was no security risk. Christine Keeler is admitted that she was not sleeping with Eugene Ivanov [a Russian naval attaché] at the same time. His big mistake was to lie to the House of Commons. He was badly advised. Now the whole thing is 30 years ago, and Profumo has done more to merit a peerage than a lot of peers."

### All-party list

WHETHER or not Profumo's name features in it, John Major is clearly out to demonstrate an admirable lack of bias when drawing up the New Year's honours list. He has offered an OBE to *Guardian* journalist John Palmer. Palmer, doyen of the Brussels press corps, is a fervent

Euro-federalist, and as a former member of the Trotskyite International Socialist is unashamedly left-wing.

Too left-wing even for the classless society, it seems. For like the good old-fashioned socialist he is, Palmer remains sternly opposed to the honours system — and has rejected the accolade. "It was not really appropriate, so I very politely declined," he discloses.

### Graceless

THE Department of National Heritage's Christmas Eve announcement that Lord Gower is to succeed Lord Palumbo as Arts Council chairman next year raised some eyebrows in the art world. Not because it was unexpected, but because it so successfully submerged the other big heritage news of the day — the 18-month delay of the export of *The Three Graces* to the Getty Museum. A coincidence? Sir Roy Strong, former director of the V&A, is doubtful. "It happened before. The Getty must be pretty fed up. It makes sense for the Heritage Department to time the announcements together. Also the length of time is astonishing."



## DIARY

ing: I've never heard of a delay of 18 months before."

A spokesman, however, pleads innocence. "I never got the impression it was a cover-up. I think it was more about wanting to clear our desks before Christmas."

● Apart from casting a discerning eye over the latest Donna Karan lingerie range, the Princess of Wales has also been restoring one Washington shopworker's faith in astrology. Tony Sisco, who served the Princess a cappuccino in Saks, had read his horoscope, which foretold he would "have a dialogue with someone from a foreign land". So it proved. The Princess thanked him for the coffee, saying it was "really delicious". As an overture Sisco put it, "That counts as dialogue to me."

### Man with a van

A SEVERELY rusted, under-powered chunk of British motor-racing history is to go under the hammer in February. And there should be no shortage of buyers.

For the A35 van, to be sold by the specialist auctioneer Brooks, belonged to James Hunt and was a familiar sight at race meetings where Hunt practised his much-missed double act with Murray Walker. Also being sold by Hunt's executors is a rather grander Mercedes 240 SEL, which — towards the sudden end of his turbulent life — the former world champion kept on bricks. But Hunt, who made and spent several fortunes, always hoped to get the Mercedes back on the road. As he told friends: "Maybe one day, when my ship comes in..."

## She hunted in vain

NOT FOR the first time, Jilly Cooper has been finding the line between fact and fiction a little blurred. But as ever, the author of such jodhpur-rippers as *Riders* and *Polo* has been making amends — with unexpected results.

When four suspicious packages recently arrived at the Atherstone bunt, the four joint masters lost no time in calling the police. When the police delicately unwrapped the parcels, however, they found not the expected explosive greeting from angry saboteurs — but a picture book with text by Cooper.

It was, she says, her way of apologising to the hunt for inadvertently "borrowing" its name when she "invented" a hunt for the book *Atherstone's Wedding* — a short and risible tale of life amid the upper classes, illustrated by Sue Macartney-Snape and containing a generous credit from Cooper to her friend Andrew Parker Bowles for his "hilarious" contributions.



Jilly Cooper and her friend Andrew Parker Bowles

Cooper's Atherstone, hunts in Lincolnshire; whereas the real Atherstone thrills to the chase, in Warwickshire. "It was one of those ghostly things," she moans. "I made up the name because I had invented the Earl of Atherstone — I went through Debre's and found no Atherstone so I didn't think there would be a hunt."

But the matter has now been safely defused. "The Atherstone Hunt Club has a dinner about every ten years, and we are about due for one," says joint master Richard Tyacke.

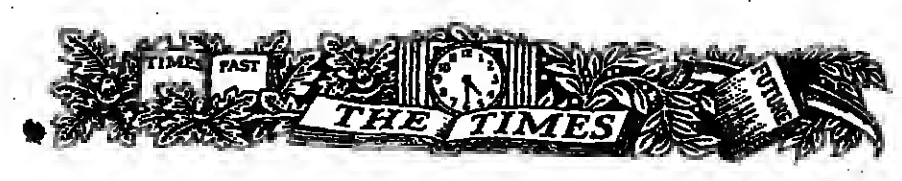


Jilly Cooper and her friend Andrew Parker Bowles

"We thought we would ask her to speak at the dinner — and she has accepted."

● Lord Lichfield plans to capture the delights of Birmingham's new cross-city line for a 1994 calendar have been delayed — by the late arrival of the new trains. "The plan now is for Lord Lichfield to take the photographs this year," says an apologetic spokesman. "So a 1995 calendar can be produced, which will be available this time next year." One for the photographer's charter, perhaps.





# LITTLE PLATOONS

The buffers between family and state protect the vulnerable

The five cases of children left at home by their parents over Christmas have inspired understandable outrage and a sense of panic about the apparent decline of family bonds. To abandon a child is always irresponsible; at this time of year it is peculiarly heartless.

Yet the lessons of these emotive cases are not all bleak. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children warns that it is receiving 60 calls a month from neighbours anxious about deserted children and that this number is rising. This reflects poorly on the families concerned. But it also reflects well on the callers who bothered to telephone the NSPCC's helpline. If parental negligence is growing, then so is neighbourly concern.

The neighbourhood remains the most basic social unit other than the family — yet one which is little discussed. This is a curious and potentially damaging omission in political discourse, which still concentrates too heavily upon the relationship between the individual and the state.

The difficulties of single parenthood, for instance, raise questions of individual morality and sexual conduct; they are also of concern to the state, which must try to support the needy without encouraging dependency. But between Leviathan and citizen lie the communities in which single parent families live and which bear a basic responsibility for their welfare. The fact that the police were alerted at all in the recent cases of child desertion suggests that the instincts of neighbourliness remain powerful.

No society which aspires to reduce the role of the state can be indifferent to the "little platoons" which Burke so esteemed. Foremost among contemporary threats to the fabric of neighbourhood is litigiousness. In Germany, the number of court actions between neighbours has increased at a remarkable rate, forcing citizens to take out insurance policies against being sued.

In this country, a similar tendency has become visible in a number of well-publicised cases. In August, for example, a married couple was sent to jail after neighbours complained to Yarmouth borough council about their loud arguments. The following month, a young woman who played the same pop song hundreds of times was found guilty of harassing those living around her. Entertaining as such cases may be, they appear to indicate a degeneracy in local relations and the ability of neighbourhoods to resolve their own disputes. At the other extreme is the declining faith of some communities in officialdom and the rule of law itself. This was evident in the disorder at the Heath Town estate in Wolverhampton on Monday, as an angry crowd tried to prevent police and social workers taking into care three young children left alone in squalor by their father. It is equally apparent in the unpleasant rise of vigilantism which has led aggrieved members of the public to take the law into their own hands. The pathological face of neighbourhood spirit is the rage of the lynch-mob.

In between these two poles of social behaviour lies the healthy community which seeks to run its own affairs as far as possible and co-operates with government in order to do so. In the 11 years since it was set up, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme has overcome initial scepticism to spawn 115,000 active groups which, if nothing else, have encouraged a sense of local partnership and purpose. The involvement of parents in opted out schools has also encouraged a sense of mutual responsibility and involvement in key institutions. But this evolutionary process is in no sense preordained: the British are a nation of individualists who distrust busybodies and interferences. Neighbourliness in this country therefore requires tactful nurturing. In its health lies the best hope of the vulnerable.

# MR RAO'S DR SINGH

India must step up the tempo of economic reform

Finance ministers who preach, and practice, fiscal reform are popular anywhere, let alone in developing countries. Argentina's Domingo Cavallo is one; India's Manmohan Singh is another. Dr Singh's rise to resign, made after his ministry was criticised by a parliamentary enquiry into a Bombay financial scandal, was honourable, particularly as the two ministers directly concerned made no such gesture. But Narayana Rao, the Prime Minister, should begin to stay. Dr Singh is India's best hope of taking with its gloomy post-independence story of economic insularity.

Dr Singh is the only thoroughbred in the Mr Rao's cabinet, which consists largely of the usual Indian mix of fixers, odders and venal regional satraps. He is dispensable, a fact stressed by the Indian press and business sector who, as one, have urged Mr Rao to keep his finance minister on board. Mr Rao's own political ock, in the aftermath of November's general elections in the key northern "cow belt" states, is high. He can afford to shed his timid economic reforms, even if this means confronting powerful interests.

Under Mr Rao, India has been troubled by political instability and communal violence. Although he has a mandate to govern till 1996, he has been haunted by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), which has offered the untried a dangerous sectarian brew, would succeed in forcing mid-term elections. There is now no likelihood of that. The unexpected poor showing of the BJP in the recent polls has strengthened Mr Rao's hand; and he should in turn free those of the capable Mr Singh.

Although the Nehru legacy of dirigiste Fabian economics, long the compulsory prescription for India, has openly been called into question, Mr Rao and Dr Singh have not pushed reforms to their logical conclusions. A number of things remain to be done. While inflation is down to just over 6 per cent and foreign exchange reserves have grown sevenfold since 1991, India's industrial potential is still far from fully realised. Higher growth requires not just fiscal discipline but more deregulation.

The government has been far too reluctant to privatise the extravagantly overmanned public sector; and reform of the Industrial Disputes Act, which requires companies to secure official permission before closing plants or laying workers off, is essential. Furthermore, foreign institutional investors face serious restrictions on the Bombay stock exchange. If these were lifted, India's low inflation and interest rates and the scope for attractive returns would be powerful magnets.

India's new pragmatism, evident in the mature position taken by its negotiators at the Gatt talks, augurs well. The treaty will give the Government a powerful weapon against domestic protectionism, which it must use if India is genuinely to profit from the global economy. It is not just because its citizens demand a higher standard of living that economic growth is important for India. Only the generation of wealth, and its rational utilisation, will bring political stability. Communal disharmony, religious chauvinism and secessionist movements are all nourished on poverty and the lack of opportunity which goes with economic stagnation. India's secular and democratic health depends, to a great extent, on Dr Singh's economic management. It depends, also, on the statesman in Mr Rao.

# FOUR COLLY BIRDS

"Colly" birds are familiar as blackbirds, and twenty of whom were able, admirably, to sing in spite of serving as lling for a king's pie. Blackbirds are doubtless, and one of their tribe avenged its attempt on their life and dignity by evering the nose of the maid in the garden. Naturally, it was the king who should have st his, but the rhyme is faithful to its time, then villains paid the price for the capers of their overloids. "The wringing of the nose ringeth forth blood", and much blood was shed in feudal times, although seldom by blackbirds.

Does the "colly", or any other bird, make a suitable gift for a true love on the fourth of Twelve Days of Christmas? The answer is no. Blinded by the exotic and the finely-athered, buyers dabble in a dangerous esthetic game which can lead to the vintion of rare species. The smuggling of votic fauna is, after arms and narcotics, the untraband trade most widely practised. Iyazith macaws, Moluccan cockatoos and frish Grey parrots are but three of many rids in danger. Rare birds are usually idigenous to poor countries, where nservation laws are lax or non-existent, nd are a valuable source of income. Demand sets off a chain reaction of catchers, iddlemen and smugglers.

In 1973, states concluded the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to regulate trade in imperilled fauna and flora. Today 120 states are parties to the treaty. It bans trade in a category of nearly 8,000 highly threatened species and controls it in a further 30,000. The advent of the single market within the European Union, however, is likely to raise new problems for Britain. With the effective removal of internal customs barriers, endangered species smuggled into other European Union states, particularly those of the Mediterranean, could find their way into Britain. Furthermore, several hundred species not protected by CITES, but whose importation is prohibited under British law, could now be brought into the country.

Mercifully, the blackbird, or *Turdus merula*, far from being endangered, is one of Britain's most ubiquitous birds. A gift to one's true love would not require furtive activity, involving sordid crates and cross-border transactions, in breach of CITES. But why give anyone a blackbird? It is neither brightly plumed, nor particularly inventive. One could not even teach it to say "Mind the gap!". Its charms are simple, and best enjoyed outdoors. In doing so, one subscribes also to a wider principle: birds are best when left at liberty. "There never was fair prison, nor fair cage, For bird or beast, for man or sage."

# Fear of attack on South Korea

From Mr Alan Lee Williams and Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Next year must become the year of Nato. The political and military rationale of this unique alliance must continue to be central to the United States involvement in the security of Europe as well as the extension of security reassurance to the countries of central and eastern Europe which only Nato can provide. But what military commitments can Nato-Europe give the United States, which will conceivably face a challenge from North Korea?

As your leading article of December 27 rightly argues, President Kim Il Sung's regime could well invade South Korea, once it has acquired a nuclear capability, since it is pledged to unify the Koreans by 1995 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Kim regime.

The United States has forces deployed alongside those of the South Korean army which could be overwhelmed in a massive surprise attack before American air power could be brought into play to restore the tactical initiative to the defenders. The background presence of nuclear weapons — presumably available to both sides — adds a menacing dimension to any aggressive move made by Kim Il Sung's seemingly unhinged regime.

Can we therefore suggest that the Nato summit meeting in January addresses the wider strategic questions raised by the impending crisis? How best to deter an attack on South Korea and what to do if deterrence fails are complex issues, given the current state of international politics, with its emphasis on the need for low-intensity peacekeeping operations which eschews the risks of getting involved in high-intensity operations such as Operation Desert Storm.

Yet Nato is palpably better prepared for high-intensity operations — and rather better at coping with them — than it is in responding to the requirements of peacekeeping as defined by the UN Security Council. Thus Nato should be prepared to participate in a military coalition against Pyongyang if it initiates an attack on South Korea.

We believe that a robust statement to this effect would transparently help strengthen those in Pyongyang who are possibly more susceptible to reason, as well as reminding Peking that it too has responsibilities for the maintenance of peace in the area by virtue of its permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

To demonstrate strong solidarity with the United States — as was the case during the Korean war itself — Nato's rapid reaction force, under British tactical command, should be made available to fight alongside United States and South Korean forces in the event of a massive land invasion of South Korea. Nato's willingness to help America in Korea could raise the logic of America's willingness to underwrite the defence of Europe should it too be threatened by whatever appalling manifestation might emerge from the corpse of the former Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS  
(Director),  
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS  
(Senior Research Fellow),  
The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom,  
154 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,  
December 27.

# Aims of national vocational courses

From the Director-General of the City and Guilds of London Institute

Sir, Both Margot Norman's article of December 15, "Cuckoo-land courses", and the report on vocational education and training by Professor Alan Smithers upon which it is based miss a fundamental point. The acquisition of competence, upon which national vocational qualifications (NVQs) are based, does include knowledge and understanding as well as skill.

UK Limited needs a pool of people who "can do", with all that entails, including the related theory. What we do not want is a workforce that knows "why" but cannot apply the knowledge to achieve anything useful: a plumber who knows the rules of thermodynamics but cannot install a bath would not be considered competent here or in Germany.

Far from regarding the assessment procedures as "claptrap", we have consistently and publicly endorsed the establishment of the new framework and the philosophy that underpins it. We are concerned about the cost, but we are working with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) and others to find ways of reducing it, since we believe it would be a tragedy for the system to fail because it was not affordable.

Yours faithfully,  
N. A. D. CAREY,  
Director-General,  
City and Guilds of London Institute,  
76 Portland Place, W1.

# Ghost of Kafka in modern dress

From the Headmaster of Taunton School

Sir, I had not really been following the periodic discussions in your paper about the proceedings of the Child Support Agency. Recently, however, I received a communication from them that made the reason for the difficulties clear: the ghost of Kafka stalks the agency corridors.

Through the post, in an official (recycled) brown envelope, came a form with a confidential request for information about an employee (whom in fact we have never had), inviting me, if I so wished, to ring an extension number, but giving no telephone number by which I could make the initial contact.

As it said "Social Security" on a small logo at the bottom of the letter I rang the local office, who told me that they had no such extension. When I said the form also carried the letters "CSA" I was told I could be put in touch.

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Yours faithfully,  
BARRY SUTTON,  
Headmaster,  
Taunton School,  
Taunton, Somerset TA2 6AD,  
December 23.

# Aerospace and Gatt

From the Chairman of the European Aerospace Industry Council

Sir, Your readers may like to be made aware that in one very important respect, namely aerospace, neither Europe nor its strategic industries nor consumers will benefit from the Gatt agreement (reports, December 16).

European manufacturers of airframes, engines and equipment will continue to face American competitors who have effectively unlimited access to indirect government support through huge NASA budgets. Meanwhile, European access even to direct repayable government loans will remain limited.

We are grateful to the European Commission and our governments for their efforts to redress this imbalance but if we are all to benefit from free trade the Gatt arrangements will have to cease protecting the strongest producer and our governments must achieve a much better deal during the extended negotiations next year.

Your correspondent in Geneva referred to competitive Brazilian exports. It should be pointed out that Brazilian aircraft enjoy heavily subsidised export credits.

Yours faithfully,  
SYD GILLBRAND,  
Chairman, European Aerospace Industry Council,  
c/o AECMA, Avenue Mounmaerts 10,  
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# House of Savoy

From Mr Peter Callaghan

Sir, Donald Foreman of the Monarchist League is rewriting Italian history (letter, December 14). Mussolini did not come to power through "the will of the people". Victor Emmanuel III appointed him as Prime Minister in October 1922, and allowed him to govern unchallenged for over twenty years. The Italian people delivered their own verdict on the record of the Italian monarchy in June 1946: they voted by referendum to establish a republic.

There have been outstanding rulers of many countries whose reigns have enhanced the idea of monarchy: none of them has come from the House of Savoy.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CALLAGHAN,  
2 Alderwood Avenue,  
Stockport, Cheshire.

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The first instance of this provoked little amusement, but the eighth, suggesting an earnest determination by the providers that the dimmest recipient should appreciate the subtlety of the bon mot, convulsed us.

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139 The Ryde,  
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# Right to silence

From Mr Roy Amiot, QC

Sir, The Home Secretary proposes to permit the courts to draw inference from a suspect's failure to answer police questions or from a refusal to give evidence in court (report, December 18). Despite many years, in the past, of prosecuting as Treasury counsel, I believe that such a move to emasculate the right to silence is clumsy and unenlightened.

The right to silence for a suspect on the street or in a police station sits alongside the right of a defendant not to give evidence at his trial. Both of them are underpinned by the burden of proof in criminal cases, which remains at all times upon the prosecution. The right to silence should remain absolute. It has the important time-honoured advantage that a suspect, whether innocent or guilty, knows exactly where he stands.

The present caution is clear and not open to misconstruction. What is the citizen and non-lawyer to make of the new caution which, according to your report, is now proposed: "You are not obliged to answer questions. But if you do not mention now something which you later use in your defence the court

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I am sure that with enough understanding, compassion and public feeling these two men could have been transformed into valuable members of society. But if they had injured or killed someone by their speeding would there have been three days of rioting by people complaining that the police had failed to apprehend them?

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From Mr David Gilmour

Sir, The recent decision to award the new National Gallery of Scotland to Glasgow raises questions about the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland have failed to answer. What, they should explain, is the logic of establishing a national gallery of national art outside the national capital?

Is Scottish art so provincial that it needs to be seen in a special gallery where no one will be able to make comparisons with English and international painters?

Is it so embarrassing to see a Ramsay beside a Gauguin that the trustees of the Scottish paintings belonging to Edinburgh's three national galleries have to be removed to Glasgow? The trustees claim that many more people will visit a gallery in Glasgow than in Edinburgh because the existing museum at Kelvin Grove receives more visitors than the national galleries in the capital. But the comparison is so misleading as to be meaningless.

As anyone who goes to Kelvingrove can see, a large number of its visitors congregate in the rooms displaying armour and stuffed animals, and do not look at the pictures upstairs. There is no evidence whatever that they will flock to the new gallery.

The argument that Edinburgh lacks sufficient space is equally fallacious. The national galleries have plenty of room to expand on their existing sites and could do so for considerably less than the £25-30 million estimated cost of the Glasgow gallery at Kelvingrove. As a result of this unnecessary and

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# Letters to the Editor

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Letters are accepted for consideration on the understanding that their authors warrant that they are true and accurate, and that they do not contain defamatory, obscene, libellous, fraudulent, or otherwise unlawful material. The Editor reserves the right to edit, shorten, or reject any letter, and to use any letter in any form, in any medium, without payment to the author. Letters are accepted on the understanding that the author grants the Editor the right to publish the letter in any form, in any medium, without payment to the author. Letters are accepted on the understanding that the author grants the Editor the right to publish the letter in any form, in any medium, without payment to the author.



## SOCIAL NEWS

## Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 80; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 81; Lord Beaverbrook, 82; Sir Samuel Britan, journalist, 60; Mr John Connell, former chairman, Distillers Company, 69; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 65; Mr Ted Danson, actor, 46; Miss Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 34; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, 58; General Sir Robert Ford, 70; Mr Andrew Foster, controller, Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales, 49; Professor L.C.B. Gower, professor of law, 80; Mr David Hall, former chief constable, Humberside, 63; Sir Simon Hornby, chairman, W.H. Smith, 59; Mr Gilbert Hunt, company chairman, 79; Mr Martin Offiah, rugby league player, 27; Mrs Rosalind Preston, former president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 58; The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 57; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 67; Mr Harvey Smith, showjumper, 55; Miss Mary Tyler Moore, actress, 56; Mr Jon Voight, actor, 55; Sir Edward Williams, former commissioner-general, Expo 88, Brisbane, 72.

## Forthcoming marriage

Mr T.G. Bevan-Thomas and Miss R.J. Ryeland. The engagement is announced between Tim, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Bevan-Thomas, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Rachel, daughter of Mrs Ann Deveson and the late Mr Roger Ryeland, of St Margaret's Bay, Kent.

## Community spirit conquers despair

By JOHN YOUNG

SOME 25 years ago Runcorn Development Corporation, in Cheshire, commissioned the distinguished architect, the late Sir James Stirling, to design a housing development intended as a prestigious ornament to the then burgeoning new town. It proved to be an unmitigated disaster. Within three years of completion in 1977, the Southgate estate was classified as "hard to let". The concrete blocks with 1,100 deck access flats and maisonettes symbolised the worst aspects of system-built public housing. By 1983 one of the blocks had been boarded up. Almost a third of the estate was empty, graffiti and vandalism were widespread and the crime rate high. In 1985, out of 207 areas in the county, it ranked first in indicators of social stress, such as teenage pregnancy, truancy, child abuse and unemployment. When metering was introduced in 1987 to meet the cost of expensive oil-fired heating system, many tenants were unable to meet their bills, and the condensation affected the fabric of the buildings. That year a group of housing associations, led by Merseyside Improved Housing (MIH), was appointed to tackle the problems. Association officials were impressed by the community spirit of the residents, who were living in appalling conditions. However, plans to replace the blocks with terraced housing were frustrated by a government decision in January 1989 to demolish the estate and not redevelop in the foreseeable future. Faced with the break-up of their community, the tenants lobbied vigorously. Six months later the environment department agreed to provide funds to MIH to redevelop half the estate at a cost of £14 million. After "decanting" tenants into temporary accommodation, 240 families and single people were rehoused in a pleasant, landscaped estate of brick houses, bungalows and flats with gardens, renamed Hallwood Park. A further 68 homes have since been completed. In the two years since the first families moved into Hallwood Park there has been just one recorded crime, a burglary.

Southgate to Hallwood Park - the transformation has been short-listed for the 1993 Community Enterprise Awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Business in the Community. The winners will be announced on January 17.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charles Macintosh, pioneer of water-proofing, Glasgow, 1766; Andrew Johnson, 17th American President 1865-69, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1808; William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister 1868-74, 1890-95, 1896 and 1892-94, Liverpool, 1809; Pablo Casals, cellist, Vendrell, Spain, 1876. DEATHS: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury 1162-70, murdered in Canterbury cathedral, 1170; Thomas Sydenham, physician, London, 1689; Brook Taylor, mathematician, London, 1731; Jacques-Louis David, painter, Brussels, 1825; Charles Lamb, essayist, Edmonton, Middlesex, 1834; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1894; Sir William Osler, physician, Oxford, 1919; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Valmont, Switzerland, 1926; Eden Philpotts, novelist, Broad Clyst, near Exeter, 1929; Paul Whiteman, bandleader, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 1967; Maurice Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63, Sussex, 1986. Radio Luxembourg began broadcasting, 1930. The Irish Republic changed its name to Eire as the new constitution was implemented, 1937. German aircraft dropped 10,000 bombs on London, 1940. First transistor hearing aid went on sale in America, 1951. A coelacanth, a prehistoric fish believed to be extinct, was caught off the coast of South Africa, 1952. The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

## Oxford

Brasenose College. Elections to Scholarships and Exhibitions.

In Biochemistry: To an Open Scholarship: Peter Michael Haggie, formerly of Hoo Upper Comprehensive, Commemorator of the College.

In Chemistry: To an Open Scholarship: Matthew James Bidwell, formerly of St Paul's School, London, Commemorator of the College.

In Engineering, Economics & Management: To an Open Exhibition: Aris Bilikos, formerly of Athens College, Commemorator of the College; Dipesh Shrestha, formerly of Budhanilkantha School, Commemorator of the College.

In English: To an Open Scholarship: Gideon Michael Lester, formerly of Westminster School, Commemorator of the College; David Ian Sankay, formerly of Stowe School, Commemorator of the College.

In History: To an Open Scholarship: Paul Michael Stanistreet, formerly of Monmouth School, Commemorator of the College.

To an Open Exhibition: Simon Todd, formerly of Grange School, Cheshire, Commemorator of the College.

In Law: To an Open Scholarship: Kevin Peolan O'Sullivan, formerly of The John Lyon School, Commemorator of the College.

To an Open Exhibition: Karl Seeger, formerly of the German School, Surrey, Commemorator of the College; Andrew David Wright, formerly of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington, Commemorator of the College.

In Literae Humaniores: To an Open Scholarship: Kieran Patrick O'Connor, formerly of St Bede's College, Commemorator of the College; Ian James Macdonald, formerly of Tiffin School, Surrey, Commemorator of the College.

To an Open Exhibition: Tristan Charles J. Elrick, formerly of Eton College, Commemorator of the College.

In PPE: To an Open Scholarship: Douglas Stuart Scott, formerly of Ipswich School, Exhibitor of the College; Timothy Douglas Hartford, formerly of Aylesbury Grammar School, Commemorator of the College.

## DEATHS

GRHOUSE - Leonard "Lionel" David B.S. (Oxon), A.T.I., F.P.M.I. On 22nd December, aged 63 years, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

WELSON - Major General Sir John K.C.O. On 22nd December, aged 81, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

RILEY - On 24th December, aged 82, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

SALTER - Wilfrid, on 24th December, aged 82, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

STOCHOL - John, on 22nd December, aged 81, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

KNOWLES - On 21st December, aged 81, died at home, 11, St. James' Place, London. He was a well-known and respected figure in the community. Buried at St. James' Church, London. Family flowers only please.

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OBITUARIES

DAVE BECK

Dave Beck, leader of the American Teamsters Union, 1952-57, died in Seattle on December 26 aged 99. He was born in Stockton, California, on June 16, 1894.

UNLIKE his fellow president of the Teamsters, the notorious James Hoffa who disappeared in 1975 and is presumed murdered, Dave Beck lived to a ripe old age and died in bed. But, like Hoffa, he served a term as a non-paying guest of the state. In Hoffa's case, the stint behind bars arose from his conviction on charges of jury tampering and misuse of the union's pension funds. Beck was the target of a succession of both state and federal charges between 1957 and 1959, and eventually spent two and a half years in jail for embezzlement and tax evasion.

He remained unrepentant. In the American trade union ethos, where socialist ideological purity cuts little ice, his dealings were, he maintained, perfectly reasonable. "Labour is a business," he once said. Being a millionaire was no crime if the union benefited too.

To be fair to Beck, he undoubtedly was one of the driving forces behind the rise to pre-eminence among American unions of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, to give the organisation its august official title. And, although he began his working life as a laundry truck driver, he no more resembled the old blue-collar union leaders than he did the more politically-minded, intellectually-sophisticated men who succeeded him. In Washington state, where he made his stamping ground, he was, rather, of the same stamp as that breed of financial empire builders who had once roamed free in that part of the country.

When he was four the Beck family moved to Seattle, where he left school to work in a laundry. An unsuccessful strike of Teamsters members in 1913 made a great impression on him and when the laundry workers struck in 1917 he was active in an action which ended, this time, in victory for the union.

By 1923 he was president of the Teamsters in Washington state. From the start he saw trade union organisation as a business and demonstrated such flair at increasing efficiency and cutting costs that at one point he was actually offered the management of a combine of laundries in the Seattle area. Much tempted by the offer, he extracted the promise of a senior post with Teamsters International from its leadership, as a reward for not deserting trade unionism for business.



In his rise through the union Beck had no truck with political militancy. As he saw it his role was merely to get as much for his members out of their employers as he could. Labour versus capital was not, to him, a meaningful concept and he looked on the ideologically inspired strikes of the International Workers of the World (the "Wobblies") as pointless. Extraordinarily, the only thing he disapproved of about the free enterprise system was what he saw as its untidiness, and he actually set about trying to establish stable competitive structures in the laundry business.

This, with its implications of price-fixing, did not endear him to Washington's employers and his stock with them fell even lower in 1936 when he infiltrated a newspaper workers' picket line at a strike on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer with Teamster truck drivers who roughed up non-striking workers. Newspaper headlines denounced Beck as "Public Goon No 1".

A reputation for ruthlessness with which Beck fought off an attempt by the pro-Communist West Coast longshoremen's union to infiltrate his membership. Internecine battles raged between bands of longshoremen armed with cargo hooks and the Teamsters who favoured sawn-off baseball bats. But the Teamsters' victory in this struggle did much to

rehabilitate Beck with employers who, though they feared and disliked him, hated anything to do with communism even more.

One by one other unions and employers' associations fell into the only too receptive arms of the Teamsters. If they did not fall they were dragged. Hauliers in Los Angeles were told that goods moved by their non-union drivers would not be handled by Teamsters people outside their area. Naturally the hauliers were relieved to see their trucks become Teamsters en bloc. Similar tactics were used to drag on the brewery workers within the Teamsters ranks. If it benefited his membership to have Teamsters helping to break other unions' strikes, Beck did not hesitate to authorise "scab" activity. Labour solidarity meant nothing to him. Indeed there came a point when he tended to sit in judgment on the behaviour of other unions and the rectitude or otherwise of their strikes.

These attitudes and their effects rapidly changed his image. Now he became the darling of American employers. Indeed, after he became leader of the Teamsters in 1952, the managerial style of his actions and pronouncements was quite indistinguishable from the tone of most big businessmen and politicians. Thus, though he held political action in contempt, on one occasion when he felt US labour legislation ought to be altered to

conform to his views, he announced that he would found a third political party modelled on that of Britain's Labour Party. Meanwhile raids on the membership of other unions went on, while within the union itself the leadership of many branches was suspended and his own puppets were installed.

However his love of the management style did not render him immune from the scrutiny of the law. In 1957 Beck appeared before the Senate Rackets Committee, accused by its Chief Counsel, then Robert F. Kennedy, of illegally commandeering \$300,000 of union funds. He denied the charges but was almost immediately afterwards convicted by a Washington state court of embezzlement. In the following year he was convicted of federal income tax evasion, but appealed successfully. Finally, he was convicted of filing a fraudulent tax return, and jailed. He was released in 1964 and in 1965 the state governor pardoned him for his state conviction. In 1975 he was also pardoned on the federal conviction.

Through investment in real estate and a number of companies he controlled, Beck became enormously wealthy. Before his incarceration he had been a pillar of Seattle's Episcopal Church and sat on the state parole board. He was married with one son.

LESLIE STALLARD

Leslie Stallard, former managing director of Midland News Association, died in Wolverhampton yesterday aged 78. He was born on June 21, 1915.

IN POSTWAR Britain, when regional newspapers were losing readers at an alarming rate, and when long established newspapers in Manchester, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds and Edinburgh were forced to close, there was one family-owned newspaper publishing group which doubled its papers' circulation. The Midland News Association, which published the Wolverhampton Express & Star and the Shropshire Star, owed much of its success to the efforts of Leslie Stallard, the right-hand man for many years of the papers' dynamic proprietor, Malcolm Graham. Stallard was an iconoclast who aimed to show the way forward not only for the rest of the regional press, but for a Fleet Street bogged down with restrictive printing practices and ancient machinery, and was squarely behind Graham in his commitment to new technology.

As head of advertising at the Express & Star during the 1950s he was also responsible for introducing the then novel concept of taking advertising over the telephone. And when, in 1964, the MNA bravely launched the Shropshire Star into a depressed market, it was Stallard who helped smooth its way as managing director of the new paper's controlling company.

Leslie Stallard began his 65-year career in the business as an office boy. He was first marked down for great things by Norrie Graham, co-proprietor of the newspaper in 1930. A friend of the sculptor Robert

Jackson Emerson, Graham showed a great interest in the shape of the human cranium, and would regularly point out the 14-year-old Stallard to passers-by: "See the shape of his head? Mark my word, that young man is going to the top."

So it proved. Within six years, Stallard was in charge of the Express & Star pre-paid advertisement department and, after volunteering for war service with the Royal



Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he was appointed advertisement manager in 1948. In this post he argued and won the case for taking advertisements over the phone - a decision which put the Express & Star ahead of its regional competitors.

In 1956 he was elected to the board of the MNA and two years later became MNA general manager, during a period of unprecedented growth in the Express & Star's circulation. By 1963 he had been

appointed joint managing director of the Shropshire Star & Journal, the company formed to manage the new Shropshire Star. The launch of the evening paper the following year was viewed by outsiders as a doomed project from the start, but, as with the Express & Star, the MNA's policy of concentrating on local news and of reinvesting company profits into new technology paid handsomely.

The new paper was printed by the then state-of-the-art web-offset process which gave needle-sharp reproduction of pictures and offered full colour to advertisers. Together with the Express & Star, it became fully automated when the concept of the computerised newspaper was still just a gleam in many British publisher's eyes, not least in Fleet Street. Stallard had the satisfaction of seeing its circulation mount steadily from 20,000 to 100,000 over the next 20 years.

Stallard was made group managing director of the Express & Star in the mid-1970s. He retired as MNA managing director in 1983, but stayed on as chairman of Star News Shops, the group's retail newsagency business in charge of over 200 branches. As with everything he did, he described his aim as "to drag the corner newspapers, kicking and screaming if necessary, into the 20th century." He was also a past chairman of the Press Association, president of the West Midlands Newspaper Society and a former director of Reuters. Away from newspapers, he was a golfer, a governor of Wolverhampton Grammar School and fundraiser for the Wolverhampton Nuffield Hospital.

Leslie Stallard is survived by his second wife, Maureen, their two sons, and two daughters from his first marriage.

HAROLD ROSENBERG

Harold Max Rosenberg, Emeritus Fellow of St Catherine's College and Reader in Physics at Oxford, died while on holiday in Brazil on November 21 aged 71. He was born in London on August 26, 1922.

HAROLD ROSENBERG was a distinguished experimental physicist who published two very successful textbooks - *Low Temperature Solid State Physics* (1963) and *The Solid State* (1975) - and over one hundred papers mainly about the electrical, thermal and mechanical properties of solids, especially at low temperatures.

His initial researches were on metals but in 1962 new phenomena associated with magnetism and the interaction between magnetism and phonons (the quantised vibrations that store and transport heat in insulating as well as metallic solids) began to interest him. This occupied his attention for the next decade. Then, in 1972, he began the work on composite, disordered and amorphous materials that lasted until his retirement.

On his 60th birthday, in 1982, Rosenberg was gloomily contemplating the need to find a new topic of research to last until his retirement, when a note from an old colleague, Ray Orbach, in California, showed that his experimental results on the low temperature properties of amorphous materials found a natural explanation in terms of the newly discovered mathematical theory of fractals, by now of course familiar through the strange and beautiful pictures that they generate.

In a paper written jointly with Orbach and two of his colleagues the word "friction" first appears as a term for a quantised vibration in a partially disordered medium, a concept that he went on to elucidate at learned confer-

ences and even in a lecture given to schoolchildren at the Royal Institution only a few weeks before his death.

The son of a small shopkeeper in East Ham, Harry Rosenberg left school at 16 and went into the Civil Service in a clerical post. He was called up and served throughout the war in the RAF working on radar which he had studied in his spare time.

On demobilisation he was given a further education and training grant and studied at University College London, graduating with a first class

that they might encounter as they came to a new subject for the first time.

He played a full part in the affairs of the college and the university and other bodies such as the Institute of Physics, though he was never a committee man, regarding this service as a duty but also something of a chore. He was as active as the senior member of the undergraduate Science Society as he was on the faculty board.

Rosenberg was, above all, a great teacher, unstinting in the attention that he lavished on both his undergraduates and his research students. Generations of students have been grateful for the hospitality of Rosenberg and his wife Mildred Ann. His transfer from Linacre College (for which he retained great affection) to St Catherine's was motivated by his wish to teach undergraduates. From this he derived great pleasure - and a succession of recruits to his string quartet.

Although tolerant of incomprehension and even stupidity he had no patience with laziness; remembering how nearly he himself had missed the chance of a university education, he expected others who had been offered it to make the best of this opportunity.

He took a similar pastoral care of his graduate students and came in daily to see what they were doing and to "twiddle the knobs and to make sure that they had optimised all the settings of their apparatus. As one of them, now himself a professor, has remarked, this is an important habit and one that sticks, though his own graduate students have taken to adding a few knobs that do nothing, just to keep him happy. Since Rosenberg's students came from, and penetrated to, the ends of the earth this habit has no doubt been spread world wide.

He is survived by his wife and their three daughters.



honours degree in physics, and then at Oxford, obtaining a DPhil, in 1953, under Kurt Mendelssohn. Six years later he became a university lecturer and in 1978 was appointed a Reader. He also became a fellow of the newly founded Linacre College, a graduate college, and subsequently, in 1970, a tutorial fellow of St Catherine's College.

Rosenberg was a gifted lecturer, not only to undergraduates and to colleagues at conferences, but also to a much wider audience, both on the radio and on television. He had a knack of making complex ideas clear and steering his audience around pitfalls

SIR JAMES HARFORD

Sir James Harford, KBE, CMG, former Governor of St Helena, died on November 26 aged 94. He was born on January 7, 1899.

JAMES HARFORD belonged to that generation of young veterans who, returning from the horror of the First World War, found their own peace amid Oxford's dreaming spires. When his grandson went up to Balliol 70 years on, he wrote him an affectionate

letter, quoting Ovid: "Ille terrarum miles praeter omnes angulus rider" (that corner of the earth which among all others makes me smile).

A second lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment, James Dundas Harford had gone into the trenches straight from Repton. Wounded in the closing stages of the fighting, he had ended the war in Belgium, in charge of prisoners-of-war at the age of 19. At Oxford he was awarded an honorary scholarship, at that

time given to those who were considered to be scholarship material but whose chances of winning one had been spoiled by the war. He read Greats.

He was a founder member of the 1919 Club, formed by those who had gone up after the war, and relished the glittering company he found there. His contemporaries at Balliol included the writers, Nevill Shute, Beverley Nichols, and L. P. Hartley, the film director Anthony Asquith and the politicians, David Maxwell Fyfe, Christopher Hollis and Frank Soskice.

Harford's father was an Anglican clergyman at Great Yarmouth and had cherished hopes that his son would follow him into the ministry. At Repton Harford came under the successive headmasterships of William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher, both later to become archbishops of Canterbury. He wrote in his private memoirs before he died: "It would be difficult to estimate my debt to the chance of intimate and sustained association with these two men - so contrasting in their nature and quality of achievement but each with the quality of greatness."

Another master who inspired him was the young publisher-to-be Victor Gollancz who taught English (before being dismissed by Fisher). After Oxford, where he also played hockey for Balliol and captained the college at football, Harford found himself with few ideas for a career. A friend who was a



housemaster at Eton persuaded him to try teaching there for a while with the prospect of one day getting his own house. But after three years as an assistant master, he could stand no more of it and entered the colonial service.

In 1926 he joined the Nigerian administration where he soon found himself, with little training for the job, in charge of an area the size of Wales. But he was to spend eight years working in Nigeria, eventually becoming assistant secretary in the central secretariat and clerk to the executive and legislative councils - a post usually awarded to high fliers. Then, after two years in Whitehall, he was dispatched to the West Indies in 1936, initially as the administrator on Antigua and federal secretary of the Leeward Islands government. From there in 1940 he moved to become administrator on St Kitts

Nevis, where he remained throughout the war.

One of Harford's chief concerns was to ensure that the people in his charge had enough to eat. Food convoys ran the gauntlet of U-boats during the war, transporting food to a distribution centre in Barbados, from where smaller boats ferried supplies round the Caribbean islands. But Barbadians were tempted to fill up the small boats with rum (which they had in excess) instead of swordfish and rice which were most needed.

After 12 months in Whitehall Harford was next posted to Mauritius, as colonial secretary for five years - at a time when the island was preparing for universal suffrage. He went to St Helena as governor in 1954 and stayed there until 1958.

After retirement he worked as conference organiser for the Commonwealth Institute until 1964.

James Harford was a kind and courteous man, who was frequently described by that old-fashioned word "a gentleman". Months alone in the African night had given him a deep love of nature and the stars and in old age he was happiest in his garden, in the company of young people and the birds.

His first wife, Thelma, a count's daughter whom he met while sailing, died within a few years of their marriage and he is survived by his second wife, Lilias, a son from his first marriage and two daughters from his second.

Latest wills

Michael Platt Winstanley, Lord Winstanley, of Hale, Greater Manchester, Liberal MP for Cheadle 1966-70 and for Hazel Grove in 1974, and chairman of the Countryside Commission 1978-80, left estate valued at £159,183 net.  
Sir Peter James Spicer, 4th Bart, of Fishbourne, West Sussex, former assistant secretary to the Delegates of the Oxford University Press, left estate valued at £283,093 net.  
He left £5,000 to his trustees to apply among charitable institutions or individual persons as they select.  
Mr Hugh George Gladwyn Richardson, of Fowmire, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £391,648 net.  
He left £30,000 and his home and effects to personal legatees, and the residue to the Jeffries Bequest Wing Trust at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London.  
Sir Sidney Ridley, of Waybrook, Netherbury, Dorset, Domestic Bursar of St John's College, Oxford, 1960-64, and formerly Commissioner in Sind, India, left estate valued at £419,664 net.  
He left £1,000 each to Lancaster Royal Grammar School, St John's College, Cambridge.  
Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Lane Cecil Ward, of Winkfield, Newbury, Dorset, who commanded five different battalions between 1942 and 1951, and previously enjoyed an adventurous career on the North-West Frontier and in Burma, left estate valued at £82,571 net.  
Mr Robert Melville Norris, of Farnham, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,739,618 net.  
He left his estate to his son.  
Lieutenant Colonel His Honour John Barrington Taylor, of Tiverton, Devon, former circuit judge, left estate valued at £280,907 net.  
Other estates include (net before tax):  
Mr William Roxburgh Barr, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, £819,442.  
Mr Ernest Arthur Cobb, of Uphook, Hampshire, £1,799,036.  
Winifred Maud Dowell, of Stratton under Fosse, Warwickshire, £1,104,735.  
Mr John Owen Evans, of Brecon, Powys, £509,462.

THE "BACK-YARD FARMER" CASE FOR MORE RADIO INSTRUCTION

From a Special Correspondent

It is an opportune moment, when Lord Beveridge's committee of inquiry is considering the functions of the B.B.C., to make a brief survey of the potential listening public to programmes designed to assist listeners in the best use of their leisure time...

The term "back-yard farming" has been aptly coined to cover the many branches of amateur husbandry - gardening, the keeping of small livestock, racing pigeons, or bee-keeping. Every one of these pastimes calls for skill and knowledge and provides the mental relaxation which comes from manual dexterity, exercise in the fresh air, and working with and not against Nature. In the great majority of cases they can be pursued at home, inexpensively, often profitably, and in these impoverished times these are factors of inestimable importance which can contribute enormously to the well-being and contentment of millions of people...

It is possible from known statistics to obtain an estimate of the surprisingly large numbers of people interested in "back-yard farming". There has already been published in these

ON THIS DAY December 29 1949

Today, "back-yard" pigs, rabbits and pigeons are not often found in radio or television programmes; gardening, however, both horticulture and kitchen, has become a feature with a large following.

columns an estimate of the number of people who cultivate allotments or gardens - probably more than 2m. of them are members of some organization - but this must be only a fraction of those who devote some time to the pursuit of horticulture; some estimates place the total number at nearer 20m.

Over 289,000 members of pig clubs care for a quarter of a million pigs, and 100,000 pigs are kept by individuals, so there are now 400,000 domestic pig-keepers. About 1,500,000 people keep domestic poultry, while membership of rabbit clubs totals 50,000. Raised feeding-stuffs are issued for 184,000 does, and it is almost impossible to estimate the number of rabbit keepers who are not

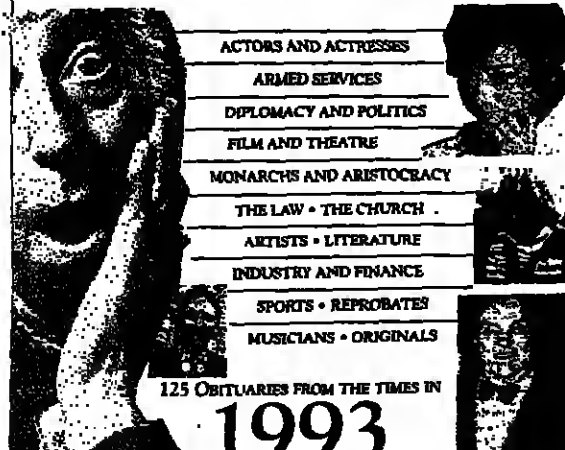
members of a club. The British Goat Society has over 4,000 members, while it is estimated there are 100,000 bee-keepers keeping over 600,000 stocks, the annual value of which in pollination and production of honey is over £7m.

New recruits to the ranks of racing pigeon fanciers are coming along at the rate of hundreds every week and over 100,000 now belong to the racing pigeon organizations.

After a study of these figures it is difficult to understand why more broadcasting time should not be devoted to these interests. Out of weekly total of some 250 hours of broadcasting in the main programmes, 15 minutes are devoted to horticulture with occasionally a few minutes in the Woman's Hour programme, while only 10 minutes are vouchsafed for all the other "back-yard" activities.

If it is claimed for the B.B.C. that it has an important educational function, to perform the size of the listening potential to a given programme cannot be regarded as the only consideration. It must further be remembered that many thousands of these "back-yard farmers" were first stimulated to embrace their particular hobby through listening to broadcast talks, so that besides a duty to the existing audience, the B.B.C. has an ever-present opportunity to introduce even more listeners to these particular recreations.

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## THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

# Battling victory against Newcastle brings relief for Hoddle

## Stein launches Chelsea revival



Johnsen, the Chelsea defender, and Spackman keep a close watch on the advancing Cole, of Newcastle, at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Chelsea ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 0

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HAPPINESS is not, after all, a cigar. Nor is it necessarily wrapped with style or fluency. It was the face, at ten to five on a wet Tuesday afternoon in west London, of Glenn Hoddle.

His demeanour when his Chelsea side, without a win since September and sliding towards the dark hole of relegation, turned Premiership form on its head to defeat Newcastle United was the personification of relief. Chelsea's narrow victory, courtesy of the second goal in two days by Mark Stein, had ended in a barrier of their own net. Forget the pretensions of Hoddle trying to influence English football with continental grace, flair and tactics. Forget that Newcastle, built in astonishing time as the Liverpool of the 1990s by Kevin Keegan, their manager, were expected to emerge as easy victors. This was a matter of survival, a grim and pragmatic function as early as Christmas, but one which Chelsea performed with such determination that Hoddle stood long after the final whistle to embrace, man by man, every one of his chosen players.

"My relief was the last four or five minutes," Hoddle said. "The commitment and character as well as the ability was credit to all the lads. We had spent Monday night in a hotel together, and clearly they had listened to all that was said. But it smacked of the victories over Manchester United and Liverpool, we must learn from the mistake of treating those as commendable one-off results. The important thing for me as manager is that this has to be the foundation to give our supporters, who have stayed really patient, a run of good results and get ourselves out of trouble."

Realism, the Hoddle way. We know he would rather inculcate into his team the vision and elegance for which he was famed as a player. But, if he is honest, he might now acknowledge that he has tried too quickly, and with too few talents at Stamford Bridge, to formulate such football. And yet the goal was his brand of football. Dennis Wise, his captain and throughout yesterday the finest player on the field, created it with a perceptiveness and an ability that Hoddle himself might have envied. Wise picked up the ball near the halfway line. He ignored Sinclair, his own player, lying in agony on the ground and calling for treatment, and lifting his head, delivered the

ball from left to right fully 40 yards over the head of Beresford, the Newcastle left back, who as ever was advancing eagerly into an attacking position.

The ball dropped for Stein. The impish little forward controlled it at a touch, danced a yard back, a yard to his left, shook off two defenders and made the perfect angle to chip the ball home past the advancing Hooper from ten yards.

The goal ignited Stamford Bridge. The Prime Minister, no less, had declared his faith in Chelsea when, 24 hours earlier they had succumbed to defeat against fellow strugglers Southampton. And be-

fore half-time, with Wise still calling the shots, with Beresford nothing like his equal for Newcastle, Stein might have had two more goals. Neither he nor Peacock could react to a cross from Dow midway through the half and then, after Chelsea reverted to route one and Shipperley had headed down a long kick from Kharine, Wise once more invited Stein to score.

The former Stoke forward committed the cardinal sin of taking his eye off the ball. He stretched forward, overreached, and the ball rebounded high and wide off his shin. Cole, who has this season outscored the entire im-

posed Chelsea team, was also a wasted opportunity. Moments after the goal by Stein he was presented with a one-on-one opening after a wretched back pass from Burley. Cole, strangely exemplifying his team's unaccustomed lethargy, hesitated long enough for Kharine to advance and throw himself bravely at the ball.

It was a long time before Cole had another opportunity, but again when Sellars prodded the ball through a square Chelsea defence in the 78th minute, the Newcastle striker, again his instincts were lacking, and again the Russian goalkeeper denied him, this time saving with his legs.

There were gritty performances for Chelsea, for Newton, for the way he policed Beresford, from the centre backs, Sinclair and Johnsen, and above all from the persistent Wise. There was a return, late in the game, for Nigel Spackman, after 14 months of harrowing recovery from a back injury. His experience, his foot on the ball, and his talking calmed nerves.

But Chelsea could not have beaten Newcastle without a considerable deterioration in the northern team's form. Their rhythm, their running, their effectiveness were lacking. Keegan made no attempt to disguise it. "I didn't think we did enough to get a result,

despite a lot of possession", he said. "Too many of our team didn't perform. I warned them that Chelsea would scrap and treat it as a big game, a chance to turn their season around. I'm disappointed for our fans who are made to pay £25 to get in and watch this poor performance."

"I've told the players that they owe us nothing, that they've climbed mountains for this club. But if those players think they've done enough, they will soon find themselves on the outside. If they start living in the past, we'll make changes. They have to know I'll never settle for being an also-ran, I'd rather get out of the game than do that."

However, acknowledging that one man's pain is another man's pleasure, Keegan turned and congratulated Hoddle. "If Glenn is given a chance here, he'll turn it around. He knows his team didn't play great football today, they battled. But everyone knows that in English football having one without the other, great players without battling performances, you never win a thing."

CHelsea (4-4-2): O'Rourke - S. Clarke, F. Sinclair, G. Johnson, A. Dow - C. Burley, E. Newton, G. Peacock (sub: N. Spackman, 70min), G. Wise, M. Stein, N. Shipperley (sub: J. Spence, 51). Newcastle United (4-4-2): M. Hooper, S. Watson (sub: M. Robinson, 63), B. Vardon, S. Hooley, J. Beresford - R. Lee, I. Clark (sub: A. Maitland, 63), P. Brackwell, S. Sakers - A. Cole, P. Beardsley. Referee: J. Wormald.

## Lee syndicate moves nearer City takeover with new deal

By PETER BALL AND OLIVER HOLT

FRANCIS Lee edged a fraction closer to taking over as chairman of Manchester City yesterday, even though his consortium has still not made a formal offer for the club. Lee is expected to take over next week, with Peter Swales, the club chairman for 20 years until his recent resignation, almost certainly withdrawing from further involvement at Maine Road.

"I hope the situation will be resolved within the next week or so," Lee said yesterday, when it was being suggested that in addition to paying £12 million for the shares, the Lee syndicate is considering spending around £60 million to improve the ground and the team. "We need a period of peace and calm," Lee said. "There are a number of important games coming up, and the players need to concentrate on gaining points rather than events in the boardroom."

Initially it was expected that Lee, the club's former England international, might be installed in time for yesterday's game with Southampton. But a board meeting in the morning broke up without any conclusion. "No formal offer has been received, so we were unable to discuss it," Chris Muir, one of the present board, said.

With merchant bankers and solicitors reluctant to work over the holiday, it may be some time before a formal offer is made, but it seems likely that the Lee consortium is looking to take a sizeable shareholding without having to make an offer. Swales and Stephen Boler hold 30 per cent each, with the brewers, Greenall Whiteley, holding another 20 per cent.

"We are negotiating with the major shareholders, but not yet with the board," Colin Barlow, a member of Lee's group who is expected to be appointed chief executive, con-

firmed yesterday. "If discussions go right with the major shareholders, I expect it will come to fruition some time next week."

Meanwhile, the battle for control of Everton took a new twist yesterday when one of the contestants, Bill Kenwright, the former Coronation Street actor turned theatre impresario, threatened to withdraw his bid after he was barracked by a section of the Goodison Park crowd during the club's 2-0 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday at Goodison Park on Monday night.

The rivalry between Kenwright's consortium and Peter Johnson, the Tranmere Rovers chairman who is also bidding for a controlling interest in Everton, has become increasingly bitter. Johnson has been accused of having sympathies for rivals Liverpool, while Kenwright has had to refute suggestions that his key supporters are Mancunians.

Both presented their cases to the Everton board on Monday, but it was announced that they would delay a decision until they had been given "further information", something which enraged Johnson. "Both bids were on the table," he said. "They should have made their minds up and my offer is financially so much ahead of the other."

But Kenwright was the more annoyed of the two. "I came into this for one reason only," he said. "I wanted to do my very best for the fans by trying to put my weight and money behind the club. But I left Goodison last night feeling a little disillusioned, along with many people. I explained my ambition for the club to those fans who approached me. But I am now left thinking about my next move."

City rescue, page 19  
Birmingham reign, page 18

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## Two yachts sink as leader is forced to pull out

By OUR SPORTS STAFF



Quinn: hypothermia

BRINDABELLA was forced to retire from the Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race yesterday after damaging its bow. Yves Pajot and his French crew aboard Bobsled-Société Générale, which had trailed Brindabella by 55 kilometres, took over the lead and is on course to reach Hobart this afternoon.

Crew members made temporary repairs to the Brindabella, but when the bow problems persisted, the yacht had to be sailed to Flinders Island off Tasmania, where the decision to pull out was taken.

The Canberra Flyer, which had defied the atrocious conditions for most of the race, became yet another victim of the 40ft seas whipped up by headwinds approaching 60mph.

The New South Wales state pair of Micropay Cuckoos Nest and Ninety

Seven were battling for second place, almost 50 kilometres behind Bobsled.

The 105-yacht fleet that left Sydney on Sunday was reduced to 48 with Brindabella's withdrawal and officials were preparing for another hectic night.

However, organisers stood by their decision to allow the race to continue despite the conditions and the incident on Monday night in which John Quinn, a 49-year-old executive from Sydney, fell from his yacht, MEM, and spent 5½ hours in stormy seas before being rescued by a passing oil tanker.

A second yacht, Adjuster, from New South Wales, sank yesterday following the loss on Monday of the Tasmanian entry, Cloyd, the first boat to sink in the race's 49-year history.

The full details of Quinn's survival emerged yesterday. Greg Hall, the

race director, said that after two hours he had given up Quinn for dead. The race's media centre began preparing an obituary and next of kin were notified that he was missing.

Four yachts in the area and the tanker, Ampol Sarel, were swung into the search area at the mouth of Bass Strait by Canberra Sea Rescue, and the tanker's searchlights picked up the reflective tape on Quinn's jacket.

The tanker's engines were cut to allow its crew to hear Quinn's cries and, 15 minutes later, he was lifted aboard, suffering from hypothermia. He was taken to Eden, on the New South Wales coast.

"It was just a miraculous discovery," Hall said. "To be able to ring his next of kin and tell them he had been found was a very emotional moment."

Quinn, who was sailing in his

thirteenth Sydney-to-Hobart race, said it would be his last, but added that he had never given up hope of being rescued. "We were hit by a freak wave," Quinn said. "I was on the helm and got pitched across the boat. I probably took half the life-lines with me. I certainly broke the safety harness I was on."

Quinn, who survived without a flotation vest, added: "I got a bit desperate toward the end but I am feeling pretty good now. I am getting back to normal. I have stopped most of the shaking." Quinn has been sailing since he was seven and ocean racing since the age of 19.

The 630 mile Sydney-to-Hobart has suffered one fatality. In 1984 bad weather led to a crewman's death when he was washed overboard and 104 boats retired from the 150 fleet.

Summer gloom, page 1







West Ham outclassed by Ardiles's stylish side in entertaining London derby

# Hazard spurs Tottenham to success

West Ham United..... 1  
Tottenham Hotspur..... 3

By Andrew Longmore

UPTON Park has always been a breeding ground for nostalgia. Old pictures line the walls, famous faces lurk round every corner. Trevor Brooking and Geoff Hurst were two of the Academy graduates on show yesterday, but even those loyal West Ham United supporters had to admit that their team was outclassed and outplayed by an inspired Tottenham side, who were applauded off the pitch not just by their own supporters but by the home crowd as well.

They know good football when they see it here and, though derbies are not noted for their generosity of spirit, the appreciation was robust and comforting.

Even Osvaldo Ardiles was moved to tears of praise for his side's second win in their last 13 games. "Quite beautiful stuff," he said. "The best possible Christmas present." The Tottenham manager was most pleased with his defence, which had conceded six goals in the previous two games, but singled out his old accomplice, Micky Hazard, for special mention. "He has done more than I asked of him," Ardiles said. "He is capable of making a team play on his own."

Recognising the talent of a player after his own heart, Ardiles has followed Hazard throughout a chequered career, playing in the same side as him at Tottenham, bringing him first from Portsmouth to Swindon and then back to White Hart Lane for only £50,000. Ardiles, though, had doubted whether the 33-year-old would have the legs to survive two fast games in two days, but his suggestion of a place on the substitutes' bench was dismissed by Hazard, who became increasingly influential as the game wore on.

As usual, Hazard was at the heart of much that was good in the game and what little was bad. But he more than repaid Ardiles's faith, pulling Tottenham back into the contest when they were in danger of being overwhelmed. With that impish stride, he hooked home the second goal, and released Anderson for the conclusive third, Tottenham finishing the match as if involved



Dozzell, the Tottenham forward, attempts to impose himself on proceedings against West Ham at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Simon Walker

in nothing more taxing than an exhibition.

Yet, for the first 20 minutes, it had all looked so promising for the revitalised West Ham, as Bishop and Butler dominated the midfield and Hazard took time to find his range. When Breacker's long ball found Holmes, who had plenty of time to put West Ham ahead, it seemed Tottenham's suicidal tendency in defence had surfaced once more. West Ham supporters rubbed their

hands in anticipation of more to come.

Instead, their own defence dissolved at a corner, which was headed on by Sedgley and poked home at the second attempt by Dozzell. Just before half-time, Hazard played a neat one-two with Barmby before driving home a rising shot from 15 yards.

Not surprisingly, the pace, akin to a five-a-side, slackened a fraction in the second half and tempers rose. Hazard, as

ever, was in the thick of the action, lashing out at Burrows without making contact, or invoking punishment. Butler clattered poor Caskey, who emerged unscathed from several thundering challenges, and Calderwood followed Butler into the book.

West Ham continued to press, but were unable to find Chapman's head with a stream of crosses. Ironically, their best chance proved merely the prelude to their down-

fall. In the 77th minute, Breacker's goalbound volley was blocked by Morley's back. Tottenham recoiled, sprung back and, a moment later, Anderson, who had just watched an instinctive 40-yard lob sail narrowly over the bar with Miklosko floundering, turned past Gale to thump home Tottenham's third. Indeed, had Campbell, who replaced Barmby, not sided with the goal before him, West Ham's embarrassment would have been much greater.

"They deserve a lot of credit," Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, said. "They came at us and had a go." He too, thought Hazard was the decisive factor in his side's defeat. "He is a terrific little footballer," Bonds said. "But I thought the whole game was good to watch." Quite what comes next for Tottenham, not even Ardiles knows. His team

live on a knife-edge between dazzling attack and desperate defence, switching one to the other in the blink of an eye. Sometimes they use three passes where one will do, but nobody can argue with their style or entertainment value.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): 1. Miklosko - T. Breacker, S. Potts, A. Gale, D. Burrows - M. Marsh, P. Butler, I. Bishop, M. Holmes (sub), S. Jones, P. Bishop, T. Morley, L. Chapman. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-1-3-2): E. Thorneycroft - O. Kariakou, G. Calderwood, S. Gray, J. Latham, V. Barmby - D. Caskey, M. Hazard, O. Anderson - N. Barmby (sub), S. Campbell, T. Dozzell. Referee: G. Ashby (Worcester).

## Wimbledon ride luck at Anfield

Liverpool..... 1  
Wimbledon..... 1

By Oliver Holt

LIVERPOOL'S recent inability to conquer Wimbledon has become a symbol of their slide away from the heights of footballing success and yesterday their status as one of the Premier's inconsistent also-rans was confirmed when the south London club extended its unbeaten run against the Merseysiders to eight games.

Ever since Liverpool's loss to Wimbledon in the 1988 FA Cup final, meetings between the two have assumed almost talismanic proportions and the wild cheers from the Kop that greeted every successful tackle on Fashanu, every mistake from Jones, was evidence of the importance the home supporters attached to the game.

But their fervour turned to despair in the second half when, despite all their pressure, Liverpool could not retake their first-half lead which had been wiped out by a fortuitous Fashanu equaliser. "It will take faith in ourselves to win today," Graeme Souness, the Liverpool man-

ager, said before the kick-off. His team appeared to have the faith, but not the penetration or the luck.

In the first 30 minutes though, Liverpool's domination was such that it seemed they were bound to erase the memories of their Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Selhurst Park on penalties a fortnight ago.

Kidknapp and Clough looked composed in midfield,

exonerated in the Mabbout affair. The home side nearly went ahead in the fifth minute when Clough's clever through-ball found McManaman and his shot was tipped over by Segers.

McManaman was to blame two minutes later when he wasted Fowler's intelligent pull back by screwing his shot well wide from 15 yards out.

This at least was not the Liverpool of the scoreless draw with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on Sunday, when their defence was torn apart by a ponderous but prolific attack. Nicol's inclusion in place of Dicks seemed to reassure Wright and Ruddock and Matteo's pace in midfield gave their forward movements more urgency.

Rush, fighting for his place in the team after being substituted on Sunday, created the opening goal. Acting as provider rather than predator these days, he took Redknapp's pass on the edge of the area in the 27th minute and drove in a low cross which Scales hammered into the roof of his own net as he tried to hack it away.

When Segers was forced to block from Nicol, two min-

utes later, and then save a Rush drive with his outstretched boot in the 33rd minute, it seemed the jinx was about to be broken.

Five minutes before half-time, however, Fashanu lurched past a static defence, advanced on Grubbelaar and after his first shot had been blocked by the goalkeeper, he nonchalantly side-footed home.

Try as they might, Liverpool could not score in the second half and will have to wait until April for revenge. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was delighted with the result. "We rode our luck a little bit but we had our share of chances ourselves. Segers was magnificent today."

"They are definitely my luckiest team. But we are only three points behind them now and we have a game in hand. That shows you how much we have improved."

Either that, or an indication of the depth of Liverpool's decline.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): B. Grubbelaar - R. Jones, M. Wright, N. Ruddock, S. Nicol (sub), M. Walters, T. Barry - N. Clough, J. Redknapp, S. McManaman, O. Mitchell - I. Rush, P. Fowler. LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): W. Segers - W. Barrett, S. Fitzgerald, J. Scales, S. McManaman (sub), A. Clarks, G. Wright, R. Eadie, P. Fear, N. Ardley - J. Fashanu, D. Holdsworth, R. Cooper (Portsmouth).

## Johnson conjures up goal to deny spirited Leicester

Derby County..... 3  
Leicester City..... 2

By Dennis Shaw

NEITHER Derby County nor Leicester City will dispute the popular theory that a season's fortunes can hinge significantly on the Christmas holiday fixture programme. In the space of 24 hours, Derby improved their promotion prospects by six points while Leicester slipped further back by dropping five.

An impassioned east Midland derby match at the Baseball Ground yesterday saw County take a two-goal lead, drift back to 2-2 as Leicester rallied, and then complete their second victory in two days with a late winner by Johnson.

The standing ovation afforded at the end illustrated the enjoyment of a crowd of 17,372.

As Derby have climbed the table, Leicester's record is only one win in nine games since they went top after beating Southend on November 6.

After Leicester had three times surrendered the lead in

a 4-4 draw against Watford at Filbert Street on Monday, Brian Little, the manager, said his side had been responsible for seven of the eight goals. Here again he had cause to lament a suspect defence. That and the loss of the defender, Coatsworth, sent off in the 72nd minute, undermined any hopes of them stopping Derby's march.

The competitive nature of the tussle was set in the opening four minutes when Williams and Short were cautioned for crunching tackles. Having established the physical guidelines, the game then conjured up a variety of memorable moments.

Derby's opening goal from Mark Pembroke in the sixteenth minute was a splendid example, though his opportunity was supplied by an assist from the Leicester defender, Lewis. As Harkes's left-wing centre fell perfectly for Pembroke, he volleyed the ball into the net from 20 yards.

Coatsworth quickly left his mark on Harkes with his first bookable offence. When he floored Johnson, he had to go. The darting runs of

Gabbiadini, who had endured a sleepless night while his wife gave birth to a son, were always a problem for Leicester and when Williams fed him a pass down the left in the 38th minute, he moved in smoothly to score with a cross-shot.

Leicester were down but not out. Just before the interval Joachim replaced the injured Ormondey and, in the first 20 seconds of the second half, the newcomer collected Oldfield's quickly-taken free kick to prod it over the line.

Gabbiadini and Pembroke fired shots against the Leicester woodwork, but even when down to ten men the battling spirit of the visitors shone through, and Roberts collected an equaliser with 12 minutes left. But City's revival was denied by Johnson, who gathered a through-ball from Gabbiadini to place it wide of Ward.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): M. Taylor: G. Charles, C. Short, O. Weaver, M. Forsyth; M. Pembroke, M. Harkes, P. Williams, J. Hesketh; M. Gabbiadini (sub), C. Ramage, B. Mitchell, J. Johnson. LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): G. Ward: G. Coatsworth, S. Grayson, C. Hill, N. Lewis; O. Oldfield, S. Agran, S. Thompson, J. Ormondey (sub), J. Joachim (41); I. Roberts, D. Speedie. Referee: R. Hunt.

## City make most of resources to thwart Dowie

Manchester City..... 1  
Southampton..... 1

By Peter Ball

IT HAS been a good Christmas for Ian Dowie. After previously scoring only two goals all season, he has doubled his total in less than 24 hours, helping to bring Southampton four FA Cup Premier League points in the process. They were not enough to keep Southampton out of the bottom three, however, the draw yesterday leaving them in twentieth place as Chelsea leapt above them by beating Newcastle United.

Then again, the result left City also looking nervously over their shoulders as their desperate run reached only one win in the last 13 matches. "The way things are going, that's a point won," Brian Horton confessed afterwards. "We're unbeaten over Christmas and that's about the best run since I came."

Yet things might be looking up, with Francis Lee's consortium talking about an injection of £64 million to improve the Maine Road stadium and its team. It is tempting to suggest that the team needs all of it, but the injury list makes such a judgment look a bit harsh.

Yesterday, City's reduced and much-shuffled team - with David Rocastle making his debut in a line-up containing four central defenders and with Phelan, a full back, playing wide on the left - showed commendable spirit to come back after Dowie had given Southampton the lead. By the end, City might even have won, Beasant proving the busier goalkeeper.

"When you go one down, heads can go down, but we showed character, coming back," Horton said. "I think David Rocastle helped in that respect, because he's a good player and he wants the ball." Playing in central midfield, Rocastle quickly won the approval of the crowd with an aggressive push on Adams



Rocastle: assured

when the Southampton player protested about a tackle. Thereafter, he had a quick satisfactory game rather than a heroic one, although Leeds supporters will be interested to hear that he lasted the full 90 minutes.

Nevertheless, City needed their substitutes, notably when Griffiths, who is rapidly becoming a marked man, received a badly bruised ankle after only 16 minutes and did not return after the interval. With Griffiths therefore making only a minimal contribution, a heavy load fell on Vonn and Phelan, who were pressed into service as attackers. Vonn's physical presence gave Southampton problems from the start, the big Dutchman looking City's most likely scorer in the early stages.

Southampton, though, took the lead after 25 minutes with a move that belied their lowly position in the league. Adams and Allen released Kenna, who took on Brightwell and crossed perfectly for Dowie to head home from six yards.

In recent weeks, that might have been that, but with the crowd in good humour at the prospect of the approaching boardroom takeover and giving loud vocal support instead of the recent hostility, City responded almost immediately. Again Vonn was involved, his presence distracting the defence as Edgill's cross came in, and the ball ran to Phelan, who marked his move forward with a low shot across Beasant for his first league goal for the club.

"I like playing up there," Phelan said. "I'm not Ryan Giggs or Lee Sharpe, but I enjoy haring about." He went on to have about with increasing effect and City might have won.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A. Collins - R. Edgill, A. Kinnear, K. Carr, O. Brightwell; M. Sherrin, D. Rocastle, S. Lomas (sub); K. Ingleton, T. Wynn, T. Phelan - C. Girdle, (sub) P. Simpson, M. Vonn. SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D. Beasant - J. Adams, S. Wood, K. Moore, F. Barnett - P. Allen, N. Medley, C. Westwood, M. Adams - M. Le Tissier (sub), J. Barrett, S. Dowie. Referee: A. Wiles.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE					
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form	
1. Manchester Utd	22	53	+26	DWLDW	
2. Leeds	22	40	+12	WWLWD	
3. Blackburn	21	39	+11	LWWWD	
4. Arsenal	22	37	+11	LDWLW	
5. Newcastle	22	36	+17	WDWOL	
6. Norwich	20	34	+11	LDWLW	
7. QPR	21	34	+8	DDLWW	
8. Liverpool	22	33	+7	WDDDD	
9. Aston Villa	21	31	+1	EDDLL	
10. Sheffield Wed	22	30	+10	WDLWW	
11. Tottenham	23	30	+5	DWDLW	
12. Ipswich	22	30	-4	DWDWD	
13. Norwich	22	30	-9	LWLWL	
14. Wimbledon	22	29	-4	LWLWL	
15. Coventry	20	28	-2	LWLWL	
16. Everton	22	25	-8	WDLWL	
17. Manchester City	22	20	-8	LWLWL	
18. Oldham	22	19	-18	DWLDL	
19. Chelsea	21	18	-11	LDLWL	
20. Southampton	22	18	-12	LLWLW	
21. Sheffield Utd	22	18	-15	DWDLW	
22. Swindon	22	14	-28	DLDWL	

Change Up Stayed the same Down

## Buxton inspires hope of Sunderland revival

By Our Sports Staff

OPTIMISM has been in short supply at Roker Park throughout 1993, but it came flooding back yesterday after their 2-1 win over Millwall. The crowd of 19,283 dispersed into a raw Wearside evening discussing Sunderland's chances of making the Endsleigh Insurance League first division playoffs.

Mid-table they may be, but Mick Buxton's team is unbeaten for four matches, winning three and conceding just one goal in the process. It is all so very different from a few weeks ago, when Buxton took over from Terry Butcher as Sunderland slipped into the relegation zone.

No new players have been recruited, but Buxton has managed to motivate his squad, organise a previously porous defence and impose a shape on the side, so much so that even though Sunderland are some way short of looking promotion contenders, they were still too good for Millwall.

Indeed, they were ahead after just ten minutes when Phil Gray headed home Ferguson's centre after Millwall failed to clear a corner.

Both Gray and Ferguson have blossomed since Buxton's appointment after disappointing under Butcher. A £650,000 close-season purchase from Heart of Midlothian, Ferguson, with a reputation as a playmaker, had been so disappointing that Butcher's failure to bring the best out of him and Gray, an £800,000 acquisition from Luton Town, probably cost the former England captain his job. Lately, however, Ferguson's workrate has increased considerably and his persistence down the left won Sunderland that corner which preceded Gray's goal.

Defensively, Millwall were disappointing, clearly missing Cooper, the central defender they sold to Nottingham Forest for £1.8 million earlier this year. If they fail to go up, Millwall will surely struggle to retain Rae too, who ran the midfield for long periods and created the 38th-minute equaliser for

Roberts, struck low from 22 yards. Yet Sunderland were not to be denied and Russell, only 19, scored his first league goal to give them the points after coming on as a first-half substitute.

While Millwall slipped up, Forest confirmed their emergence as promotion contenders with a 4-1 demolition of Bristol City as Ashton Gate.

Collymore, predictably, was Forest's matchwinner, crowning an outstanding display with two goals. Webb and Woan also scored for the visitors.

Afterwards, Frank Clark, the Forest manager, predicted an international future for Collymore, although not, as Jack Charlton is reported to be hoping, for Ireland in the World Cup finals.

"Stan assures me his closest ties with Ireland are that he has drunk the odd pint of Guinness," Clark said, "but he has all the attributes to play at the very top. I've never seen anyone who can run with the ball quicker and beat opponents at the same time."

While Portsmouth drew 0-0 with Bolton Wanderers at Fratton Park, Wolverhampton Wanderers, arguably the division's greatest under-achievers, kept just in touch with the leading group with a fortunate 2-1 defeat of Oxford United. After going behind to an eighteenth-minute goal by Elliott, Cook equalised with a penalty five minutes from time before Keen forced home a controversial winner.

Terry Yorath's future as manager of Wales was looking increasingly doubtful last night after the Football Association of Wales (FAW) issued notice of the termination of his contract in the New Year. There was also increased speculation that talks had been held about the job between the FAW and Terry Venables, the former Tottenham Hotspur manager and a front-runner for the vacant England manager's post.

Yorath had demanded a 33 per cent pay increase on his existing annual salary of £45,000 to renew his contract, but that was rejected by the FAW. Yorath is understood to be willing to compromise on that figure.







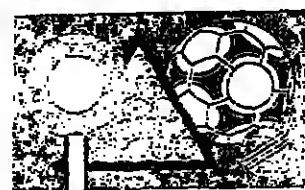




# Quest for perfection and pocket money

Andrew Longmore hears about the solitary search for mastery of the green baize from Peter Ebdon, one of snooker's rising talents

From the age of 15, when he first discovered that ancient Greek and Latin were less hypnotic than the click of snooker balls, Peter Ebdon has been obsessive about the game of snooker. He was heading for a high-flying academic career until snooker usurped his energy, his concentration and his life. Instead of taking eight O levels, he left school and continued his education at the King's Cross Snooker Club in London under the experienced eyes of veterans like Joe O'Boye and Eugene Hughes. Looking back now, five years later and with his first



A WORKING LIFE IN SPORT

big pay cheque, £60,000 for winning the Skoda grand prix, spent not on the sponsors' product but on a new Mercedes, with the rest tucked away for one of those rainy days when winning is the hardest thing in the world. Ebdon is as terrified by the gamble he took as his parents and schoolteachers were at the time. But snooker has that effect on impressionable youth and Ebdon fell helplessly under the spell. He still is, even though he is ranked No 9 in the world. "The bottom rung of the top ladder," as he terms it. This week, Christmas holiday or not, Ebdon will spend much of his working day inside what he calls his "potting shed", a simple out-house at the bottom of his garden in the gentle suburbs of Wellingborough. This is Ebdon's office. Sometimes he will practise with his brother-in-law, Gary Baldry, a fellow professional, but mostly on his own. He does not have a coach because he enjoys the independence, the solitude that snooker, above all sports, encourages. If there are mistakes to be made, he will make them and eradicate them himself. Like most of the others, he learnt his profession by watching and imitating, not by following the textbook or listening to a hired hand. Ebdon's next match is not until the second week of January, a final qualifying round for the world championships in Sheffield in April, and already he is working up

to six hours a day, perfecting his technique, honing his cueing action so that mind and body can work in perfect harmony, even in moments of extreme stress.

In the week leading up to a tournament and depending on how well he feels he is playing, Ebdon might work an eight-hour day, divided into four stabs of two hours, a mind-sapping schedule which betrays the hard-drinking image of the game fashioned by mavericks like Alex Higgins and Jimmy White.

The new generation of players such as Ebdon, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Alan McManus

and James Wattana come straight from the Steve Davis school of innocent killers. Ebdon has the complexion of a schoolboy and the discipline of a monk. He is not interested in the technical aspects of the cueing action in the way Davis is, only in grooving his own style and hardening his mind so that when he gets to the table he will not lose for lack of preparation.

"When you get a difficult ball, if you've practised eight hours you'll pot it naturally," he said. "Won't even think about it. If you've not been putting in the work, you won't be as confident."

By winning his first important grand prix event earlier this season, Ebdon has virtually ensured that his semi-professional days of pounding up and down motorways in his battered Rover, playing all day and most of the night for a few hundred pounds, are over for good. Provided he keeps his place in the top 16 next season, he is guaranteed to make £42,000 even if he does not pot a ball. Realistically, he should make three or four times that, supplementing his tournament earnings with one-night exhibitions at clubs, for which he can now charge up to £750.

Outside the top 32 in the world, it is still hard to earn a consistent living. Ebdon, for example, had to win more than 60 qualifying matches in his first season before he won a ranking point. When he did become an overnight headline

by beating Davis in the first round of the world championships in 1992, it was his ninth match in the tournament. This year, he has appeared on *Big Break* and commented for Sky television.

During a tournament, Ebdon will leave no detail to chance. If his first match is at 10am, he will establish a routine a few days before so he is ready to play at the right time. In the later stages of an event, it is harder to establish a routine. He will warm up on a practice table for 20 minutes and make sure he eats something during the interval to keep up his strength. "Snook-

er is more physically demanding than it looks," he said. "By the end of a long match, you are totally drained, mentally and physically."

At the world championships, Ebdon will go home to his wife and new baby daughter between his first and second round matches, to get away from the oppressive atmosphere which hangs over the toughest fortnight in the game.

Socialising is kept to a minimum. Ebdon is friendly with his main rivals, but only so far. Since Barry Hearn dragged the game into the age of television soap opera,

snooker has become more of a team event. Players, on the whole, will stay inside the protective enclave of their management team, eating with members of the same stable and rarely fraternising with those from other camps.

Ebdon will often be driven to tournaments by his team's road manager, travelling light, a dress shirt, bow-tie, and cue, the same one he bought seven years ago for £22 from a sports shop on the Holloway Road in London, his only luggage.

Ebdon is managed by Troy Dante, once of Troy Dante and the Infernos, the Sixties

pop group, and a relative newcomer to snooker management. Tony Drago, John Virgo and Joe Swail are in the same stable and any victory over one of Ian Doyle's men—Stephen Hendry, Gary Wilkinson or Ken Doherty—or Hearn's depleted team of Davis and O'Sullivan, is greeted with particular glee in the backroom. Styles of management differ as much as styles of play. "Some players would jump out of the window if their manager asked them to do it," Ebdon said. "I'm not a 'yes' man. I like to make up my own mind."

To Ebdon, snooker is a profession, a love, a way of life. He can think of nothing he would rather be doing to earn a living. "It's appreciating something I'm good at and knowing it's up to me. I needn't practise for two months if I don't want to, but it will be down to me when I don't get the results. I like that. It's in my hands. If I practise as hard as I can, I have a good chance of making it all the way."

Mike Watkinson, cricketer



Ebdon practises in his "potting shed", an out-house in the garden of his Wellingborough home. Photograph: Paul Martin

## Hammond makes light of latest success

By Peter Bryan

ROGER Hammond, last year's amateur junior world cyclo-cross champion and now competing at senior level, yesterday took time out of his university studies to put in a rigorous training routine in a farmer's field near his home at Chalfont St Peter, in Buckinghamshire. For Hammond, the training circuit was ideal, combining hard climbs, tricky descents and stretches of running.

His morale this winter has been boosted by four convincing wins over Steve Douce, Britain's professional champion, the latest on Monday, when he finished 52sec ahead of the title-holder at Macclesfield. He also leads Douce in the national trophy series, which has its finale the week before next month's world championship in Belgium, which is being held on an "open" basis for the first time.

Hammond, 19, believes there is no secret behind this season's good form, but though his training programme has not changed, his eating habits have. As a result, he has lost 18lb and, in cyclo-cross, which always has a fair proportion of running, a lightweight competitor generally has the advantage over a heavier rival.

Hammond, though, faces a double disadvantage in the world championship on the Koksijde circuit, much of which is through deep sand: the first is that he faces all of Europe's outstanding professionals — aware that there are no medals for the highest-placed amateurs in the event — and the second is his leg-length.

"I know the course and it is completely different from any I have ridden, requiring a lot of running in the sand," Hammond said. "Then it is helpful to have long legs. Unfortunately, mine are short."

His next encounter with Douce could be on Sunday at Southampton, the venue for the 1994 British championship, which is being held a week later.

Hammond is still undecided whether to race there next weekend, believing it might be more time-effective to carry on with his training closer to home rather than making a round trip of around six hours going south to Hampshire.

## England A maintain all-conquering path

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN CAPE TOWN

FITTINGLY, it was Hugh Morris, the captain, who hit the winning run yesterday as England A vanquished Western Province by ten wickets here to maintain their 100 per cent record on this tour.

In scrutinising the victory some perspective is useful. Western Province were without Brian McMillan, Gary Kirsten and Craig Matthews, who are representing the national side in Australia. All the same they head the Castle Cup, the domestic championship, with three wins from four matches.

Make of it what you will. The fact remains that England have won all eight games so far and have beaten their opponents in the first-class fixtures by nine wickets, an innings and 70 runs and now ten wickets, twice inside three days and on each occasion after losing the toss.

Fortunately there is no risk of this agreeable group of young players getting too big for their boots. Their fielding has been so lamentable that an overall improvement is unavoidable and, as Morris admits, absolutely essential if they are to carry their winning form into the New Year.

If they had held all the chances they missed at Port Elizabeth, they could have caught the boat to Cape Town. The performance during Western Province's second innings was by no means as lax: neither was it very good. Dale, at long leg, and Cork, at gully, both grassed chances they would expect to hold, and the general out-cricker remained slovenly.

Dale, who has a cracked finger in his left hand, atoned for his error by taking a far more difficult catch, low down on the run, to dismiss Martin, the ninth wicket. He should then have ended the innings, when MacHeim and Ryall got their signals crossed, but threw instead over the head of

the advancing Rhodes. It was junior house match stuff.

In fact it was hard to detect any signs of intelligence in the closing overs of the innings. Iltott and Gough, who had bowled well at the proper batsmen, peppered MacHeim, who is one of life's most authentic No 11s, with senseless bouncers when three straight balls in the blockhole would have sufficed.

At the other end, the field spread out to offer Ryall a single wherever he wanted. You wanted to shout: "Knock his poles out, for goodness sake! He's not exactly Victor Trumper." At such times the moderate man begins to sound like F. S. Trueman.

Gough is from Trueman country, more or less, and has something of his great predecessor's stockiness. Memorably described as "the son of a Barnsley rat-catcher" at the time of his first-class debut in 1989, he has bowled commendably on this tour, in the absence of McCague and Bicknell, and even if he doesn't bowl another ball he can return to England richer for the experience.

Gough finished the match with seven wickets, four of



Gough: seven wickets

them as Western Province struggled to 178, a single run more than they made on the first day. Iltott found the best ball of the day for Simons, one of three wickets which gave him match figures of six for 68. Cork bowled straight and, importantly, Croft lured Kuiper to his doom with his arm ball.

By stumping him, Rhodes possibly saved England from a lot of ball-chasing, because Kuiper is a dominant type of player when "in". In this match he and Carlisle Best contributed just six runs. Among the Western Province players, only Dawson, Gibbs and Jordan left much impression.

It was easy to sympathise with Best, for it is never pleasing to watch good players losing their grasp. Every innings taxes his nerve and, by pushing Gough to short mid-off almost in slow motion, it didn't hold yesterday. How he must have envied the ease with which Lathwell pulled Dawson for six as England made the 35 runs needed.

SCOREBOARD

WESTERN PROVINCE: First Innings 177 (D Jordan 65)	
S G Kuiper bowled by Cork	34
D Jordan bowled by Gough	13
C A Best bowled by Gough	1
H H Gibbs bowled by Gough	43
A P Kuiper bowled by Gough	5
E G Simons bowled by Gough	22
A C Dawson bowled by Gough	1
R J Ryall not out	24
M W Hogg bowled by Gough	3
A Martin bowled by Gough	13
O MacHeim bowled by Gough	1
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 2, nb 2)	18
Total	178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-35, 3-64, 4-75, 5-117, 6-124, 7-142, 8-143, 9-165	
BOWLING: Iltott 21-7-23-3, Gough 21-3-27-4, Dale 5-0-15-0, Cork 16-6-36-2, Croft 14-4-30-2	

## Injured batsman enters on crutches

ROWAN Lyle, the Eastern Province fast bowler, guaranteed himself a lasting place in cricket history by going out to bat on crutches in the Castle Cup match against Transvaal in Johannesburg yesterday.

Lyle, who broke his foot while bowling on Monday, emerged from the pavilion at the fall of the ninth wicket — complete with crutches, a runner and a man to carry his bat.

When he got to the middle the umpires ordered the crutches back to the pavilion, forcing Lyle to hop to the batting crease to keep the weight off his damaged foot, which was in plaster.

He faced three balls without scoring while sharing a last-wicket partnership of 23 with his captain, Eldine Baptiste, who was eventually dismissed for 60.

Lyle said afterwards that Baptiste had sent him a message at the drinks break asking if he would be able to bat. "I thought about it for a while, then had a couple of shots and decided to do it," Lyle said. "I must admit I wasn't sure how successful I would be, my batting's not that good anyway."

The runs added for the last wicket could yet prove vital, for Eastern Province's second-innings score of 217 left Transvaal needing 252 to win. They finished the third day at 124 for three.

## Taylor frustrates South Africa

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE

FOR a cricketer who allegedly no longer knows where his next cap is coming from, Mark Taylor's revision of the record book takes some believing. This highest first Test between Australia and South Africa is heading nowhere, after a third seriously curtailed day, but Taylor's much-interrupted innings took him close to achievements that would mock the many who would have him replaced in the Australian side.

In the 129 minutes of cricket possible on another damp and depressing day, Taylor advanced to 63, within one run of 1,000 Test runs in the calendar year and within sight of becoming the first player to make centuries on his first appearance against four countries. He has batted through the 254 minutes of this game to date and, the way things are shaping up, he could carry his bat to the end.

Taylor's style is not pretty, his inspiration tenacity. His physique is squat, his movements inelegant and there are days when he seems to need improbable good fortune to survive and produces few, if any, memorable strokes. But the same was said of John Edrich and Bill Lawry, fellow left-handers who shared Taylor's lack of public appeal, technicians appreciated more when they were gone.

There has been a campaign here to dispense with Taylor and summon Matthew Hayden, seven years his junior and with a first-class average this season of 113. But the agitators come mostly from Queensland, Hayden's home state, and their case smacks of the parochialism described yesterday as "amazing, almost unhealthy" by Bob Simpson, the Australia coach. "Sometimes it is not in the interests of the players to be pushed so hard," Simpson added.

Hayden may be a good prospect, but Taylor's record is incontrovertible. This is his fifth Test and he is within 33



Taylor, of Australia, unbeaten after 254 minutes

runs of 4,000, his average an imposing 48. In the ten Tests in which he has opened with the impulsive Michael Slater, the pair's average stand is in the 70s.

Yesterday, as so often, Taylor's progress was stealthy, even stilled. Only when fed the short ball wide of off stump, which Allan Donald offered

too often, did he express himself as anything other than a recluse. He does not look in fluent form, but then he seldom does, and he seldom fails either.

Comparing Taylor with David Boon is akin to comparing rough leather with silk. Throughout the grey morning, Boon struck the ball sweetly,

looking in such control that it was a shock when, in the last over before lunch, Craig Matthews, who looks no more potent than the third seamer of a modest county side, bowled him off an inside edge.

By then Boon had become Australia's fourth highest scorer in Test cricket, overhauling Neil Harvey. But the remaining statistics of this inflated occasion concern the weather, which yesterday brought a hint of desperate measures from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

Monday was the second wettest December day in Melbourne since records began almost 150 years ago. It was also one of the coldest. With yesterday's drizzle and dullness banishing any prospect of a genuine finish, various alternatives were discussed.

The Australia players were willing to add on a sixth day, despite there being only two days between this game and the second Test in Sydney. Alan Crompton, the chairman of the ACB, ruled out this idea but said that "discussion in very general terms" had taken place over the notion of abandoning the Test and playing a limited-overs game tomorrow.

The plan, contingent on a fourth badly disturbed day, seems likely to come to nothing, with a forecast of better weather. That it was even contemplated, however, was a measure of the financial distress that the washout this week will cause to Australian cricket's budget.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings	
M A Taylor not out	63
M J Slater bowled by Donald	36
S J Warner bowled by Matthews	0
O C Boon bowled by Matthews	25
M E Waugh not out	11
Extras (b 2, lb 5, nb 2)	10
Total (3 wickets, 28.5 overs)	140

\* A R Burt, O R Martin, H A Healy, P R Reffel, T B A May and C J Macmillan to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-58, 3-127

BOWLING: Donald 17-6-45-1, the wicket 20-4-40-1, Matthews 12-4-13-1, Crompton 5-11-0, Symcox 4-2-3-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: M J Slater, A C Hudson, G R Kirsten, T J Richardson, P L Symcox, C R Matthews, P S de Villiers, A A Donald

Umpires: O B Hale and T C Pua

مكذبا من الاصل



# A year sullied by the curse of the bowler hat

The England rugby team re-

But perhaps the biggest and the best cheers should be saved for the England team that actually won the World Cup this year: the England cricket team. The England women's cricket team, naturally.

Stuart Pearce became the Madras prawn or Captain Brown of football. He has the knack of being in the right place at the right time when it comes to footballing

always been respectful, respectable and a fitter-in; eminently Lancaster-Gate-able. But he lacked the secondary requirement of the job: knowledge of international football. Now all the red-

Northern Ireland played in green, but their supporters wore red, white and blue and they sang of hate all night — or at least, until the equaliser was hammered home. It was the most extraordinary sporting occasion I have attended this year, and the most unforgettable.

men gazed at him with the fascination of a lost child at a redback spider. Zoological notes: redback spiders live under Austra-

David Gower might have unravelled Warne and courteously waived him to the boundary. Ian Botham would either have been stamped by ten yards or have blasted Warne back to Sydney. Neither would have been supine:

The moral of the sporting year is this: victory is a fine wine to be sipped and savoured, but defeat is a robust ale to be swigged with good heart. Good health.

# Chargers keep Miami waiting

**By SYDNEY FRISKIN**

reprieve when Matt Cox hit a post. Then Paul Mulligan, one of the youngest players on the field, scored a well-taken goal with the help of Neil Pendel for a 2-1 lead which was increased almost on half-time when Simon Cox converted a short corner.

W Davies (Wimbolden), S Cox (Slough), J  
Hinks (Sevenoaks), captain, M Cox (Old  
Kingsdown), G Marchant (Richmond), P  
Atkinson (Sutton), N Pandolf (Chichester), J  
Mulligan (Old Walsourians, sub: O  
byfield, Old Walsourians).

CHEAM: G Davies, J McPhun, N Martin  
captain, A Nightingale, A Jones, S  
Fernandes, T Glasford, R Harmer, G  
Douglas, A Jones, K Jones

Impres: I Moss and G Stent (Southern  
Court).

# Durham's

## s strength i

# n depth le

## ed by Little

Miami have now conceded 92 points in their last two games, the highest two-game total conceded by any team coached by Don Shula in his 31 seasons as a coach.

San Diego piled up 455 yards of total offense and converted ten of 14 third-down conversions. The red pylon

the Devils have the edge so far.

Their 7-5 evening for the Bom

bers, who failed to

3. Peterborough 1; Blackburn 13; Shrewsbury 5.

a 17½-stone rookie running

final berths.









**MUSEUMS page 26**  
Roll up, roll up for  
the birth of the world's  
one and only National  
Fairground Museum

# ARTS

**VISUAL ART page 27**  
Captured on camera:  
the disturbing video  
installations of Bill  
Viola at the Whitechapel



SIX SHOWS THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD: *Times* critics relive the century's cultural sensations

## Fisticuffs over her underwear

**DAY THREE: One word started a riot at a 1907 Dublin premiere. Benedict Nightingale describes the scene**

Plenty of plays we now regard as important were first received with disbelief and rage. The supposed impieties of *Tartuffe* led to calls for Molière's public burning. The cries of indignation that greeted *The Seagull* left Chekhov, who was already seriously sick with consumption, abjectly wandering the snowbound streets until the early hours. For all we know, *Hamlet* was picked by angry Scandinavians, deranged by Shakespeare's references to the rottenness of Denmark. But nothing matched the fury of the patriotic Irish when they were presented with the first indisputable dramatic masterpiece in their history, Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*.

Mark you, Synge expected trouble. If not the riots that actually ensued, his *Shadow of the Glen*, which ends with a young wife leaving her grumpy old husband for the company of a tramp, had been attacked as a slur on Irish womanhood. After reading the reviews of *The Well of the Saints*, which had not been much better received, Synge told the actor-manager W.G. Fay, "very well, the next play I write, I will make sure will annoy them." That was in 1905. In January 1907 his promise came to fruition in Dublin's Abbey Theatre, home of the Irish National Dramatic Society.

Both Fay and W.B. Yeats, who was the society's president, tried to get Synge to tone down a play they knew might prove offensive. He refused to alter anything but the odd rude word. The female lead, Peguen, would not be a "decent likeable country girl", as Fay wanted, but a woman wild enough to fall for Christy Mahon, the male lead. And what attracted her, and impressed her fellow-villagers, would still be that he was on the run from the police, having supposedly splintered his father's head with a hoe. The Christian peasant would be seen romanticising not just violence, not just murder, but the great sin of parricide.

If the BBC had aired its documentary about Mao on top of the Great Helmsman's tomb, the provocation could hardly have been greater. Yet the first-night spectators were amused by the first act. Not until the second were sounds of restlessness heard. The audience did not like the Widow Quin, who comes to Peguen's "shebeen" to steal Christy from her. Hisses and cat-calls greeted the phrase "bloody fools", which Synge had claimed was a mild expletive in the West of Ireland, where the play was set. But it was a still slighter scolding that cracked open the dam.

Peguen asks the Widow Quin what she wants, and does not



believe the reply, which is some starch. "And you without a white shift or shirt in your family since the drying of the Flood," she cries. At that indecent word, "shift" or chemise, the audience was transformed into what Fay called "a veritable mob of howling devils". The third act began in uproar, continued with fights in the stalls, and threatened to end with the storming of a stage now protected by an axe-wielding call-boy. He swore by all the saints he would slice off the head of the first person to cross the footlights — and, wrote Fay later, "I haven't a shadow of doubt he would have chopped".

Yeats, who was lecturing in Aberdeen, got two telegrams in succession. "Play great success", declared the first. "Audience broke up in disorder at the word shift," said the second. He hurried to Dublin to find growing chaos. There were friends, among them the *Irish Times*, but they were few. The *Freeman's Journal* denounced the play as "an unmitigated, protracted libel upon Irish peasant men and, worse still, Irish peasant girlhood — this hideous caricature," it went on, "would be ludicrous of a Kaffir kraal". Could and should a national theatre get away with a travesty far

more damaging than the "stage Irishman" beloved of the English? It is hardly surprising that this theme was much heard in the days ahead. At a time when it could still be argued in England that the Irish were an inferior species, unfitted for self-rule, *The Playboy* took on political significance. If its portrait was true, thundered *Sinn Féin*, "we shall regret that so vile a race be permitted to exist". But if it was untrue the play was the work of "a moral degenerate".

The second night, on Monday January 28, ended in pandemonium, with cries of "kill the author" and the "West" interrupting the din. Tuesday evening was worse, thanks to a phalanx of quiet, inoffensive-looking young men, who turned out to be nationalists bent on wrecking the performance, and an opposing body of students from Trinity College. Contemporary accounts also make much of an "overcoated gentleman of somewhat racing appearance".

He challenged the patriots to fight him, announced "I am a little bit drunk and don't know what I'm saying", then played a somewhat erratic waltz on the piano in the

orchestra pit, and was promptly thrown out, only to reappear when Yeats went onstage to try to quell the noise. "Woe you chap there," yelled the man in the overcoat as his own friends started to beat him up. The evening ended with Synge's supporters singing "God Save the King".

Yeats surely exaggerated when he claimed that 500 policemen were needed to cope with the troubles. Nevertheless, Wednesday night was clearly an alarming occasion, with hundreds of people besieging the theatre entrances. They shouted, booed, blew bugles, and waved their fists in Synge's face. Brave man that he was, he had defied both hostility and flu throughout the week, telling journalists that the play was "an extravaganza meant to amuse".

A gentleman in the balcony stood up and announced he was leaving the theatre in protest against immorality, then said he had changed his mind and sat down, and was then thrown out — in court after subjecting Yeats to a fierce torrent of Gaelic which, the poet feebly

confessed, he could not understand. The evening ended with rival marches down O'Connell Street.

After that, the situation cooled, thanks largely to the police now patrolling the stalls. On Thursday, the actors managed for the first time to make themselves heard throughout, and Friday was quieter still. But the troubles simmered on. A Western Girl wrote to *The Freeman's Journal* sympathising with Miss Allgood ("a charming actress") for having to use a word "indicating an essential item of female attire which the lady would never utter in ordinary circumstances even to herself". There was a public meeting at the Abbey at which Yeats defended the play in a voice "cracked from screaming and his sore throat", and a medical student caused a mass walkout of women ("their countenances indicating intense feelings of astonishment and pain") by describing Christy as a sexual melancholic.

More seriously, the Abbey was subjected to boycotts at home and protests when it went on tour to America. Yet when the theatre revived *The Playboy* after Synge's death, it proved relatively uncontroversial, partly because it was played more comically, partly because it was recognised as the

fine play it is. With time, it became respectable, maybe more respectable than Synge would have wished. What did the Abbey company give the Pope in 1968? Why, a leather-bound copy of that "dreadful play", *The Playboy*.

What to conclude about all the ado? It left some looking bigoted, some absurd, some stalwart in the cause of artistic liberty. Today, it leaves me, for one, feeling oddly envious. After all, it demonstrated how much drama could matter, at least to the Irish of 1907. Here was a mischievous, even subversive play, celebrating a Celtic savagery lurking just below the Christian surface. To argue, even to rebel against such an idea, seems healthy.

Who could imagine Kinnockites venting their spleen during David Hare's *Absence of War* or born-again bishops interrupting his *Racing Demon* with angry choruses of "What a friend we have in Jesus"? We English remain doggedly unprovoked by the most provocative pieces these days. And though nobody would wish to see the National torn apart by rampaging spectators, that may be our, and the theatre's, loss.

● Tomorrow: The night that revolutionised television

### ARTS BRIEFING

#### On your bikes

AN abrupt change of gear lies ahead for Gas Hall — Birmingham's new art gallery. Currently it is exhibiting £100 million of Canaletto and English landscapes. But from February 12, the paintings will be replaced by motorbikes, as a new show called "BikeArt" brings together the finest cultural flowers of the custom-bike world.

"The subject matter is varied and challenging," says the gallery director, Michael Diamond, of his curious choice of exhibits. "And the finish, in the case of the most accomplished practitioners, can be astonishing." He cites the work of Stu Garland, whose decoration of motorbikes "incorporates gold leaf delicately washed over with translucent colour, and then lacquered to magical effect". Another biker has reproduced J.W. Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott* on his petrol tank.

● TOP prize of £18,000 in the London Weekend Television "Plays on Stage" competition has gone to the Bush Theatre in London. Under the scheme, LWT puts money into professional theatre productions on the basis of proposals they submit. The Bush's proposal was for *Raising Fires* by Jenny McLeod. Second prize (£16,000) went to the Talawa Theatre Company for *Resurrection in the Season of the Longest Drought* by Biyi Bandele-Thomas; and third prize (£14,000) to the Soho Theatre Company for *The Yiddish Trojan Women* by Carol Braverman. The plays will be staged in 1994. Dorothy Tutin, Donald Sinden and Timberlake Wertenbaker were among the judges.

#### Curtain up

MANCHESTER's sports fans may still be smarming from the rebuff over the Olympics. But the city's theatre-goers are anticipating a cultural jamboree following the launch on New Year's Eve of "Manchester City of Drama 1994".

It is the third of the Arts Council's Arts 2000 initiatives, following music year in Birmingham and dance year in the East Midlands. After the open-air bash in Albert Square from 10pm on Friday, with street entertainers and fireworks, the serious business will include visits by Théâtre de Complicité, the National Theatre (with *Angels in America*), Peter Brook's company, and Yukio Ninagawa's staging of *Peer Gynt*.

During the year a new theatre venue will become fully operational: an old cinema in Oxford Road will be re-opened as the 400-seat Dancehouse Theatre. The central box-office number for the Year of Drama is 061-242 2535.

### NEW YORK THEATRE

#### Losers play the generation game

Holly Hill on the premiere of a Richard Nelson play tackling a perennial question

"WHAT do they see in each other?" is a question often asked about lovers. In *Life Sentences*, given its world premiere in a John Caird production at Manhattan's Second Stage, Richard Nelson illustrates how perplexing the attempts to answer the question can be.

In two monologues and a brief scene, Nelson depicts a middle-aged academic and a flower-child living in his comfortable country house in upstate New York. Burke might have stepped out of *Some Americans Abroad*: he is a befuddled English professor teaching unpopular subjects like Chaucer, trying to believe that his ideals are more than fantasies. "Politics is coming back. I think it's because people are beginning to care again. Everything makes sense if you wait long enough."

Played with a wide-eyed, lumbering grace and self-deprecating laugh by Edward Hermann, Burke is like the

#### Life Sentences Second Stage

perpetually rejected pup at an animal shelter, desperate to please. Abandoned by his wife, missing their daughter, he feels wonder at capturing the 25-year-old Mia and her young daughter. He is so enraptured that he overlooks her infidelity with a Polish dissident whom they house overnight, before the Pole embarrasses Burke before the whole college by delivering a lousy guest lecture.

Michelle Joyner makes Mia like a gawky colt as she patters around her cherished garden. "My mother used to say that in her life she had spent a lot more quality time with vegetables than with men." Describing her attraction to older academics, she tells of a teenage affair with her French teacher which made her a pregnant school dropout, and rationalises cuckolding Burke



Edward Hermann as Burke and Michelle Joyner as Mia: tolerable company, but not people one cares about

under his own roof with "I think there's a kind of love that only lasts a few hours."

In the last scene, Burke silently pleads that Mia won't leave him and she prays that he won't throw her out. She is a flake and he is a dolt, and Nelson shows that their deficiencies and needs are the ones that bind. Burke and Mia are not people one can particularly care about. But Nelson, in John Caird's spare production, makes them surprisingly tolerable company.

### DANCE

#### A step too far

The Nutcracker Festival Hall

THOSE of us who are required each year, in the course of duty, to attend one performance after another of Tchaikovsky's Christmas ballet have to remind ourselves that at every one of those performances there are hundreds of people seeing *The Nutcracker* for the very first time. I wish that all producers would do the same.

Ben Stevenson's *Nutcracker* for English National Ballet, for instance, does better than some in terms of telling the story. But it could be even better if Stevenson had not fallen into the trap of trying to give the little heroine Clara and her horrible brother Fritz lots of showy steps to perform. At the Christmas party, we don't want dozens of cabriolets or fountains; we want credible and interesting characters.

Darryl Norton dutifully tried to make Fritz lively in nature as well as choreography at Thursday's performance, but without much focus. Clara (Monica Perego) was such an artificial, brassy little woman that it was difficult to have much sympathy for the adventures of which she dreams.

English National Ballet's new director, Derek Deane, has said that his first priority was to work on technique and

style. The general level in the small roles and ensembles shows that he is making progress. But there is a risk in his emphasis on assertive, high gloss, high-tech attack.

The principals all had some impressive tricks to show: Cecilia Kerche as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Fara Grieco as the Snow Queen (two of Deane's new recruits) with Bolshoi guest, Yuri Klevnov partnering both of them. But all of them tended to do this step, that step, rather staccato, instead of showing a smooth flow of movement, interestingly phrased. And the ghosts of Christmas past kept whispering in my inner ear: "We used to have just as much technique, but we used it less pushily, and we had something more besides."

Call it charm, call it glamour, call it personality, these are not just outmoded qualities, but an important part of theatre, if you are going to do this kind of ballet. And they seem to have got lost along the way. Maybe now is the time for a shift of emphasis.

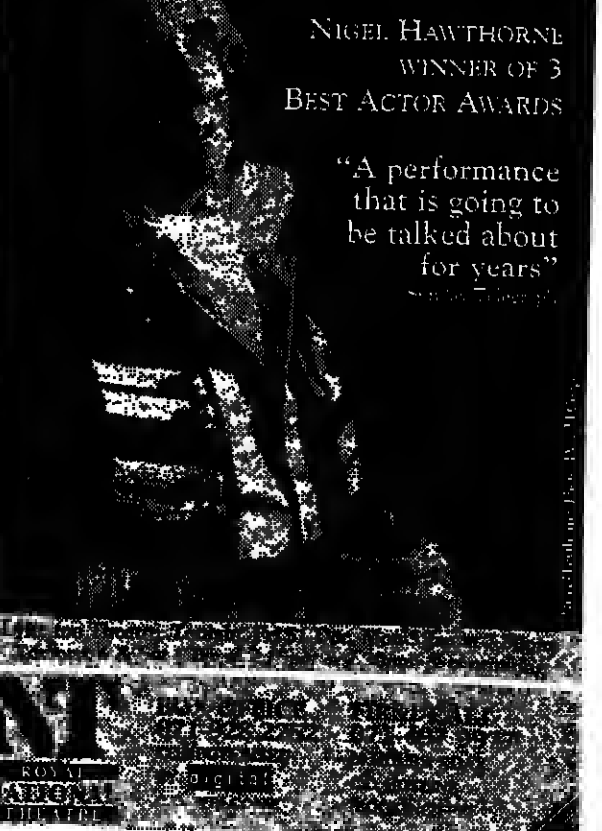
JOHN PERCIVAL

#### THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

by Alan Bennett

NIGEL HAWTHORNE  
WINNER OF 3  
BEST ACTOR AWARDS

"A performance that is going to be talked about for years"









GALLERIES: Powerful work by an American video artist in London; a master of popular painting in Newcastle

# Birth, death and videotape

The first major British exhibition of work by the video artist Bill Viola is a gripping and visceral experience, writes Richard Cork

While too many video artists numb the viewer with tedious and unbearably protracted images, Bill Viola makes sure that his installations invade our senses on the most visceral level imaginable. I still vividly recall his tall, shadowy vault at last year's Documenta, the mega-survey of contemporary art where 190 exhibitors jettied in to Kassel from all over the world. Among so much meretricious work, Viola's slow-motion images on an immense vertical screen held me enthralled. With alarming yet oddly lyrical power, he showed a figure plummeting towards water and then floating underneath. Suspended between death and life, this elegiac image was potent enough to convince me that Viola could make video as mesmeric as the most potent painting or sculpture.

My belief is reinforced by his first substantial British exhibition, held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and augmented by an earlier work at Anthony d'Ottavio's. The entire barn-like space on the Whitechapel's ground floor has been darkened. Visitors are confronted at once by a colossal three-panel piece projected on a screen almost as wide as the gallery itself. In the centre, the largest image is again focused on an underwater figure.

But this time, it is flanked by panels which give the work even greater resonance than its predecessor at Documenta. Like an altarpiece in a penumbral church, where paintings of the nativity and crucifixion are poignantly juxtaposed, Viola's *Nantes Triptych* encompasses birth and extinction with equal directness.

In the left panel, Viola's wife and collaborator Kira Perov is seen embracing herself for the imminent birth of their second child. On the right, Viola's elderly mother approaches her death. The contrast between the two events, separated in reality by a nine-month gap, is stark. Kira crouches, breathing vigorously whenever her contractions resume and supported, from behind, by the naked arms of her husband. From time to time, medical figures move in from the foreground to assist her, and

during the climactic moment of birth she is surrounded by helpers.

Viola's mother, on the other hand, is for the most part alone. Stretched out motionless in bed, she has nobody to clasp her. Breathing only in feeble spasms, with the aid of a long tube attached to her throat, she is unable either to move or talk. Her mouth hangs open, as if gasping for air, and she occasionally blinks. But she seems unaware of her surroundings, and does not appear to respond even when a man sits beside her.

The silence enveloping her room becomes even sadder when interrupted by Kira's accelerating cries of pain. As the contractions intensify, she begins to sound uncannily like the baby who will soon emerge. Noise also erupts from the central panel, as the anonymous figure crashes through the water and floats, in slow motion, beneath the surface.

When Kira lapses into quietness, and waits patiently for the next bout of pain, our eyes travel across to this shrouded presence drifting through the submarine murkiness. Sometimes, the clothes billow outwards in the water and take on a twisting life of their own. The screen is filled with undulations of cloth, stirring memories of the draperies which play such an expressive role in so many Renaissance paintings.

Detached from the figure they once enclosed, these looping and spiralling sheets encourage us to think of a soul rather than a body. They seem to be hovering in limbo, waiting for a resolution of their indeterminate state. Like the old mother on one side and the young wife on the other, the sheets and their wearer have no means of knowing when they might be released from travail. But towards the end of the *Nantes Triptych*'s duration, a mysterious light appears in the central panel, its radiance coincides with the beginning of birth and with our realisation that the dying woman has very little time left. So the advent of brightness appears to symbolise both the baby's emergence from the womb and the departure of the mother's spirit from her body.

The drama of the birth itself, and the safe delivery of a son, inevitably wrench our attention away from the nearby death. Our feelings of relief and satisfaction as the newborn infant is pulled free, and then handed straightaway to his mother, are compounded with guilt when we realise that the woman's final moments have failed to sustain as much of our interest. Dying is unavoidably lonely, even when a hand comes forward to stroke the woman's forehead.

But as the baby nestles into his mother's breast, and stares blearily at his new surroundings, we find ourselves giving an equal amount of attention to both sides of the work once more. Infant and old woman are now seen in close-up. Her face in death, resting on the left of the pillow. Her gaping mouth has fallen awkwardly in the same direction. The baby's lips are closed, and the alertness of his gaze contrasts with the sightless shadows beneath his grandmother's loose eyelids. All the same, he looks bemused and weary. His puffy face testifies to the arduous journey he has undergone.

In this respect, the newborn and the dead are united. They have both reached their destinations after prolonged turmoil, and the shrouded figure between them is finally released from limbo as he rises towards the water's surface before disappearing in a sudden rush of sound and light.

The *Nantes Triptych* amounts to an unforgettable experience. The frankness with which Viola approaches his mother's death arouses



Slowly Turning Narrative (1992): a captivating installation dramatising the tension between a monochrome man's face and colour footage of the outside world

a certain amount of unease, just as Monet's decision to paint his wife Camille on her deathbed in 1879 still has the ability to disturb. Many years later, Monet felt mortified when he remembered that picture, and wondered if his willingness to paint it had somehow compromised his feelings as a human being.

On balance, though, Viola has no need to regret filming his mother's last moments. However private her death and the baby's birth undoubtedly were, they now have the capacity to help us meditate on the beginning and end of all our lives. During his travels in the South Pacific and Japan nearly 20 years ago, Viola immersed himself in Zen Buddhist philosophy. The experience may well inform the contemplative character of the *Nantes Triptych*, and in particular the unfathomability conveyed by the unknown figure suspended so eloquently at the heart of the work.

Birth and death are brought even closer together in two black-and-white monitors are lodged at eye level in a slender column extending to the ceiling. Viola's dying mother reappears on the upper screen, and his newborn son below. Although they face one another, in apparent confrontation, the two faces soon merge.

But this affirmative sense of unity is not sustained elsewhere. Upstairs, in a chilling and darkened room, sleeping heads on video screens are isolated at the bottom of water-filled barrels. We stare down voyeuristically

at each face, registering each twitch and sudden, involuntary movement of a hand. While sharing the condition of slumber, each one remains trapped and solitary.

Confinement is challenged further on, where a captivating and superbly orchestrated installation called *Slowly Turning Narrative* dramatises the tension between a monochrome man's face and colour footage of events from the outside world. They are projected on either side of a rotating screen in the middle of the room. The frowning man seems to be struggling to escape from introspection, and engage with the communal activities on the other screen. But he cannot cast off his self-absorption, just as we are continually reminded of our own watchful presence through images reflected in the mirrored surface of the screen.

The alienation becomes stronger still in the final work, where an electronic sign sends illuminated news-flashes travelling round a large white structure. Anyone entering the shadowy chamber within discovers that the walls are dominated by images of sleeping heads. Impervious to the events proclaimed so clamorously on the outside, they confirm the division between private experience and social reality. It is an ominous conclusion, but Viola's mastery at least ensures that the gulf separating video art from its potential audience has been triumphantly bridged.

Bill Viola: *Unseen Images* at the Whitechapel (01-377 0107) until February 13, and at Anthony d'Ottavio (011-499 4100) until January 28

## RADIO REVIEW

## Off-the-wall and on the airwaves

Not every month sees an entire radio station open and close. But during the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve, listeners in parts of central and northern London could tune to 87.7 FM and find Festival Radio, the recipient of a Restricted Service Licence, awarded by the Radio Authority to enable transmission over a short period and a geographically confined area.

If like myself, you lived just within reach, tuning in became a matter of large movement of the aerial and infinitesimal adjustment of the dial, and a great deal of hissing and whistling on the part of the radio. This must have been what it was like for wireless owners in the days of glowing valves.

Festival's publicity, on the other hand, emphasises the station's modernity. The formula — music, chat and various off-the-wall offerings — has already proved successful as operated by the independent production company Level Broadcast. Festival Radio has transmitted annually at the Brighton Festival since 1990, and from next October will operate in the North as well, having won a licence to establish a radio station in Manchester. The company is therefore a leading contender to run one of the two FM stations which the Radio Authority will award for transmission in London in 1994.

Festival's schedule for the capital was music-orientated, with an eclectic playlist of contemporary indie rock, jazz and world music. The presenters included names familiar from London's alternative scene, from DJ Jay Strongman to comics Jenny Eclair and Anita the Stockbroker. The four-week trial is long enough to allow extended air time, and to expose weaknesses.

The weekday mid-morning pairing of Eclair and The Word's Mark Lamarr, for

instance, meant that the programme rarely left a groove of chirpy blather. Some of the daytime talk programmes provided by LBC, the London broadcaster now doomed by the Radio Authority, are much tougher and more substantial.

Where Festival's potential seems greatest, however, is in spoken-word formats covering different areas than any other single London station. The *Naked City* was an example of a shrewdly commissioned strand: a 15-minute lunchtime sequence of pithy, city-centred news and mini-features, produced in part by journalism students from City University.

There was also theatre of a kind. Noiseless Blackboard Eraser, whose central creative geniuses are Lance Dann and Rohan Kriwaczek, produced "sound-plays": not quite drama, not quite music, but tapestries of sampled sound, instrumentation and period speech. In *If on a Winter's Night a Listener*, for instance, a smooth-voiced character described your journey through a bizarre, sci-fi-like soundscape. If this was a game with levels of reality, it was written wittily enough to avoid pretension.

Never buzz words like "aural art" describe some of the programming which Festival has developed. The term betokens a dissatisfaction with more conventional forms of radio broadcasting, but a desire to respect the essential properties of the medium. Festival's strength is not entirely its "alternative" profile, but the sense of possibility in a radical opened schedule. Level Broadcast is now bidding for licences to set up permanent stations in London and Birmingham. If the company succeeds, one hopes that legitimisation will not curb the creative instinct.

ANDY LAVENDER

# World where all's well that's Elwell

John Russell Taylor on an artist whose reputation has for too long mixed popular acclaim and critical neglect

Rarely does the honour of a major retrospective come to an artist like Fred Elwell. Despite, or perhaps because of, the fact that his *The First Born* is the best known, most popular picture in the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, a major seller on postcards and greetings cards ever since it was painted in 1913, its

creator is almost completely unknown, his works scattered far and wide in private collections or the storerooms of public galleries.

So what has possessed anyone to put on a show of more than 100 canvases? Certainly not a centenary: Elwell's dates, 1870-1958, are all wrong for that. But all the same, the time

seems absolutely right for taking another look at such a man. Post-Modernism (not to mention camp nostalgia) has encouraged a higher regard for artists who, in the wake of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and even Cubism, went on blithely behaving as if such things had never existed, or at least, did so in their public life. In the Elwell show one is sometimes reminded of his near contemporary Gerald Kelly, FRA, whose dashing and atmospheric postcards seem always doomed to be conventionalised into academic stiffness when worked up into "the real thing".

Except that Elwell appears to have been perfectly happy with his chosen public style. Admittedly the screens upon which he dashed down his ideas for pictures, with their swift eye for highlights and their inspired casualness, show clearly that he had, after all, looked at the Impressionists and at Whistler.

But he must have shared the mid-19th-century view that an "impression" stayed in the studio, and a finished painting was something very different. He could best, perhaps, be compared with a French painter like Gervey, who knew the Impressionists perfectly well, but chose to do something completely different himself.

There is a certain irony in the comparison: both the most famous works, *The First Born* and *Rolla* respectively, were bedroom scenes, and both caused controversy. But whereas the question with the French picture was what, exactly, had the featured couple been doing the



Fred Elwell's *The First Born*, 1913 (detail), the most popular picture in Hull's Ferens Art Gallery, and a bestselling postcard and greetings card ever since it was painted

night before, the question with the English was whether the young father speeding to gaze on his first child should not have taken his hat off first. For our own generation the question might well be whether the father should be so ethereal-looking, to the extent that he has often been mistaken for a helpful land girl or a rural district nurse.

This is not a mistake Elwell often makes. Most of his men are, if not exactly the Rambo type, at any rate unmistakably drinkers of port and smokers of cigars. The women, when they are not shaped by nature to appear on the front page of the *Tatler* in tweed and pearls, are likely to be waitresses or kitchen maids.

But then, the clearly observed social distinctions often make his paintings more vivid and absorbing as documents of a vanished society than perhaps they ever are purely as art. Pictures like *The*

*Squire*, with the elderly gent unselfconsciously reading household prayers to serried ranks of uniformed maids and footmen, are revealing exactly because there is no trace of irony in them.

And Elwell was evidently just as at home with the lower orders as with their masters: the whole series of paintings concerning the kitchen of the Beverley Arms, mostly painted in the Twenties, demonstrates a friendly, unsentimental eye for local hierarchies, as well as an unexpectedly sensitive response to the way the changing light falls through the large window which dominates the room. Possibly the Royal Academy could be persuaded to take an interest in one of its own if he too could be seen as a series painter.

The big reason that this show appears in the North rather than the Sackler Galler-

ies, however, is local connections. Elwell was born and spent most of his life in Beverley, and therefore carries much more weight in the Northeast than in Fickle London. Also, the Elwell expert, Wendy Lancaster, lives locally and her accompanying book, *Fred Elwell RA: A Life in Art* (£9.90), is full of the sort of illuminating details that only familiarity with the background can bring to the work of a regional painter.

Even if Elwell's portraits are a bit dull and his landscapes, though agreeable, hardly more than conventional, his peopled interiors take on so much life from his intense feeling for the place and the inhabitants that he ends up a regional artist of truly national interest.

Leah Art Gallery, Higham Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-232 6989) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.5pm, Nov 17-Jan 23. Admission £1, concessions 50p

## Drawings from The J. Paul Getty Museum

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1993

BUSINESS NEWS 29

# Fimbra acts on loophole in pension transfers

By Tony Hetherington

INVESTIGATORS from the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Organisation (Fimbra) have uncovered a serious loophole in the system that allows members of the public to transfer funds from one pension company to another.

The loophole creates an opportunity for funds to be misappropriated in such a way that investors may be unaware of any problem until they retire and find a shortfall in their pension. For this reason, the scale of the problem is unknown, and victims may emerge many years from now.

According to investigators, a financial intermediary can divert funds for his or her own purposes by persuading clients to switch pension savings from one company to another. The surrender proceeds are sent to the intermediary by the first pension company, in the form of a cheque made out to the second pension company.

The intermediary can then attach the cheque to an application which has been prepared in a false name, requesting that the money be invested

in unit trusts or a single premium life policy, rather than a pension plan. A week or so later, the intermediary writes to the company, using the same false name, and says there has been a change of mind. The money is then refunded as a cheque that bears the false name, under which identity the intermediary has opened a bank account.

To allay any suspicion, the intermediary does genuinely arrange a new pension plan for the client so that contributions can be made in the years ahead. The client may not be aware until retirement that the plan does not contain the lump sum withdrawn from the earlier scheme.

The loophole came to light when Leslin Financial Services, a firm of financial advisers in Leeds, persuaded two clients to transfer their pension savings to Allied Dunbar. Cheques totalling £93,000 were sent to Leslin by the original pension companies, and forwarded to Allied Dunbar with applications for single premium bonds in what is believed to be a false

name. A short time later, Allied Dunbar was asked to cancel the investments and return the money to the supposed applicant. Allied Dunbar's refund cheque was then paid into an account at the Yorkshire Bank.

According to an investigator: "The bank alerted Allied Dunbar because the account had been tiny before suddenly receiving this huge sum. Allied Dunbar then contacted the original life companies, which disclosed that the cheques it had received via Leslin represented pension money belonging to two entirely different people."

Allied Dunbar then notified both Fimbra and the police, whose enquiries into the matter are continuing. All the money was recovered. Leslin Financial Services was suspended by Fimbra and is no longer permitted to offer advice or market investments.

In a similar incident, Towry Law, the financial adviser, which is a quoted company and the largest Fimbra member, uncovered a redirection of funds belonging to one of its

clients. John Bridel, compliance director, said: "We wrote to all the clients of the office concerned and asked them to check their investments. The individual concerned was immediately dismissed and Fimbra was informed."

The client was fully compensated, but an internal investigation has uncovered more cases, in which the clients concerned are unaware their funds have gone astray. Towry Law is about to write to these clients, informing them of their loss and assuring them of compensation.

Fimbra has now approached Laidlaw, the life assurance and unit trust regulator, in a bid to close the loophole which allows pension refunds to be diverted. Alan Brener, head of central enforcement at Laidlaw, said: "This has been drawn to our attention quite recently by Fimbra. We shall issue guidance to members, probably along the lines of making certain that cheques go direct to the investor, and only in exceptional circumstances to the intermediary."



Dealers amid cascading order papers celebrate the year-end closure of the South Korean stock market

## Strong yen reduces Japan's surplus

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S balance of payments surplus fell in November because of the strong yen, the first year-on-year decline in six months. The surplus narrowed to \$8.2 billion — without adjustment for seasonal factors — from \$10.34 billion a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

Economists said this could signal the end of the long rise in the politically sensitive surplus. They said it was likely to continue shrinking.

The Management and Coordination Agency said yesterday that unemployment hit its highest level for more than six years in November, jumping to 2.8 per cent from 2.3 per cent a year earlier. Inflation appeared dormant. Consumer prices for November rose 0.9 per cent from a year earlier but fell 0.6 per cent month-on-month. Prices remained stable throughout the year partly because of the rise of the yen, an agency official said.

The trade surplus, which excludes receipts from services such as shipping, banking and tourism, shrank to \$9.05 billion last month from \$9.57 billion a year earlier and \$12.43 billion in October, the Finance Ministry said. "In terms of yen

and export volume, Japan's surplus has been shrinking for some months and the dollar figures are starting to reflect this decline," said Seiji Nagano, a Yasuda Trust and Banking economist.

Economists said the dwindling surplus had not previously been apparent in the dollar figures because the strong yen inflated the dollar value of Japanese exports. But now the yen's rise was putting enough pressure on Japan's export volume to cut the surplus in dollar terms. A ministry official said it was too soon to say that the dollar-based current account surplus was definitely on a downturn.

Japanese products lost competitiveness in the global market as the yen rose to 108.82 to the dollar by November 31, compared with 124.75 a year earlier. The strong yen also boosted imports by making them cheaper.

The current account surplus with the United States totalled \$22.74 billion in the January to June 1993 period, up from \$19.65 billion a year earlier. The surplus with the European Community was \$18.93 billion in the same period, compared with \$21.34 billion.

## Foreign funds help push Hang Seng to record close

WORLD MARKETS

Hong Kong — The stock market soared again yesterday in its biggest one-day jump as investors ignored a decision by the Chinese government to disband all of Hong Kong's elected institutions when it takes over the British colony in 1997.

The Hang Seng index rocketed 530.38 points to close at a record 11,570.22. It reached an intra-day high of 11,689.94, but this was whittled back by late profit-taking. The Hang Seng's previous biggest one-day rise was 394.40, reached on December 16.

Alex Tang, an analyst with Yamaichi International, said: "Foreign funds appear to have decided to come into the market ahead of 1994."

On Monday, the Chinese government said that Hong Kong's legislative council and lower level municipal councils and district boards should be disbanded by June 30, 1997, the last day of British rule.

The announcement kills chances of achieving the so-called "through train", under which legislators and local councillors would be allowed to serve their full elected terms past the handover. A broker at a European brokerage said:

"Who cares." He added that no one had expected a through train for all legislators, and this latest move by the Chinese government did not present a fundamentally new worry.

Simon Lam, an analyst with Mansion House Securities, said: "It's come to the point that this is the worst state of Sino-British relations. We know what Britain and China will do, so the uncertainty is gone, and people can concentrate on economics." Brokers

said the market was powered by foreign funds continuing to pour in, as they have done for the past three months, encouraged by record highs in stock markets worldwide over the long weekend. The Hong Kong market was closed on Monday.

Antony Mak, of Vickers Ballas, said: "I think 12,000 is quite imminent." Selling pressure was light, as investors who wanted to take profits had already done so, he said.

## Late rally lifts Nikkei

Tokyo — Shares ended higher after a late afternoon rally. Brokers said that sentiment was aided by hopes that officials would offer economic stimulus plans, such as a big income tax cut, and Bank of Japan support for banks to write-off problem loans.

The Nikkei average ended up 311.33 points at 17,131.21. An estimated 200 million shares were traded. Buying by investment trusts and a strong futures market helped to lift

prices, with few sellers around, brokers said. On Monday, the Nikkei 300 ended down 422 points at 260.74.

The Japan Renewal Party, a leading partner in the ruling coalition, has proposed that the Bank of Japan make loans at the discount rate to help small financial institutions liquidate non-performing loans. But Masayoshi Takemura, Chief Cabinet Secretary, said it was too early to comment on such a proposal. (Reuters)

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Germany confident its recession is over

GÜNTHER Rexrodt, the German Economics Minister, reaffirmed his forecast that west German gross domestic product would grow by between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent in 1994 and said it was becoming clear that the recession was over. In an end-of-year statement he said he saw a good chance that the process of recovery would continue and grow stronger during 1994. Herr Rexrodt said: "At the end of the year, it is becoming clearer that the German economy has come out of its trough."

He said unemployment would continue to increase next year even after the end of the recession. Herr Rexrodt added: "Against this background, the government's economic policy will be fully concentrated on the task of stopping job losses and supporting the creation of new employment possibilities." He also repeated his previous forecast that east German GDP would grow by 7.5 per cent in 1994 after expected growth of 6.5 per cent in 1993.

### Council fights bank writ

THE west London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham said yesterday it would "vigorously contest" a writ issued against it by Credit Commercial de France reclaiming an unspecified sum paid to the council for swap operations in the 1980s. However, the council said it was "willing to settle reasonable claims for restitution". The French bank, on Monday accused the borough of fraud concerning its right to conduct swap operations. In 1991, the House of Lords said local councils were not empowered to carry out such operations and therefore were not liable for losses.

### Airport costs halved

MALAYSIA'S new airport will cost about \$3.1 billion, less than half the \$7.7 billion initially projected. Anwar Ibrahim, the Finance Minister, said yesterday. The revised estimate was based on lower-than-expected contract packages offered by the builders. Mr Anwar said that he hoped the airport at Subang, 45 miles from Kuala Lumpur, would be ready for the 1998 Commonwealth Games. An Anglo-Japanese consortium is designing and building the airport. The consortium includes General Electric, Trafalgar House and Balfour Beatty, along with Marubeni and Mitsui and Co.

### Swiss Mothercare sold

DENNER, the Swiss retail chain, has bought Mothercare AG Schweiz and said it will dissolve its franchise link to the British group, owned by Storehouse. A Denner statement said the 15 Mothercare stores in Switzerland, which have annual sales of 16 million francs, will be renamed Babycare. Denner bought Mothercare on behalf of its own unit, Franz Carl Weber AG. Fritz Dübendorfer, the past owner and chief executive of Mothercare, will become a new director of Franz Carl Weber from January 1 and run Babycare together with Franz Carl Weber.

### Airline rescue plan

ONE of America's richest fund managers has proposed a plan to bail out America West Airlines, which has been under bankruptcy court protection for almost two-and-a-half years. Michael Steinhardt, a New York money manager, is proposing to put in \$250 million, the equivalent of his salary last year, to rescue the airline. Only George Soros was paid more than Mr Steinhardt last year. His plan emerged as favourite among five after the Pritzker family, owners of the Hyatt Hotel chain and Wertheim Schroder, the New York investment bank, abandoned a \$150 million rescue attempt.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

**NITHER**  
(b) To bring or thrust down, to bring low, abase, humble, oppress, straiten, etc. also in OE to condemn, from the OE *nithian*: "We're obliged to neither! Our spacious sauls' immense desires."

**PENNONCEL**  
(a) A small pennon borne upon a helmet or lance, a pennel, a pennon or pennant of a ship, from the Italian *pennoncello* a little plume or bunch of feathers. Scott, Chivalry, 1814: "Whom they were entitled to muster under a pennoncel or small triangular streamer somewhat like the naval pennant of the present day."

**DERMESTES**  
(b) A genus of beetles (the type of the family Dermestidae), the larvae of which are very destructive to leather and other animal substances, from the Greek *derma* skin + *esthai* to eat: "When touched, these insects counterfeited death, but they do not contract their legs, in the manner of the Dermestes, and some other Beetles."

**EMBAT**  
(c) A northerly wind that blows in Egypt, from the Turkish adaptation of the Persian *embat*, Mackenzie, *Philological Transactions*, 1763: "The plague at Cairo begins to cease, when the Embats or Etesian winds begin to blow."

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## Paramount goodwill carries long-term bill

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

POTENTIAL bidders for Paramount Communications would take between 20 and 40 years to write off the amount they are paying for the good name of the Hollywood studio.

At that rate, Barry Diller, chairman of QVC Network, could be 91 years old before the final payment is written off, and Sumner Redstone, now 70, head of Viacom, the rival bidder, would be 110.

The arithmetics of Wall Street analysts suggests that whichever of the cable companies wins the \$10 billion takeover fight, due to close on January 7, they will have to charge \$145 million against Paramount's profits in each of the next 40 years, or \$290 million if the goodwill cost is written off in half the time. Their sums are based on a book value for the studio of \$4



Diller: goodwill game

billion, which means almost \$6 billion of the purchase price is being paid for the name.

Analysts expect shares of the victorious company to be valued at between \$50 and \$60 a share. Paramount shares fell 62.5 cents to \$77.5 yesterday. QVC lost \$1.25 to \$38.25, and are down 45 per cent this year.

## Dow on a lower note in early trading

New York — Wall Street shares turned mixed in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 5.59 points at 3,787.34.

Advancing issues led declining shares by about nine to eight. US treasuries were steady above their lows, with the long bond down 1/32 to yield 6.25 per cent. Ricky Harrington, a technical analyst with Interstate/Johnson Lane, said: "With the Dow and other indexes at all-time highs, money managers want to show fully invested positions at year-end. This is part of a normal year-end rally on this volume. Not many money managers are working this week." Some over-the-counter high-technology shares pushed ahead and semiconductor shares were strong after Goldman Sachs upgraded

Intel to its recommended purchase list from a trading buy. Mr Harrington said: "It is interesting that the OTC market is not better than it is. These stocks are so heavily weighted in that index that I would think it would be showing a stronger performance."

□ Singapore — Bulls continued to swamp the stock market, pushing the Straits Times industrial index to a new closing high of 2,392.37 in spite of significant profit-taking after Monday's trading, which also set a record. Intra-day losses were erased when selling was absorbed by investors still hopeful of making gains before the new year, brokers said. The index was up 13.94 points from Monday's closing high, but off yesterday's intra-day all-time high of 2,398.53. (Reuters)

## Economic growth may halt yield fall

GILT-EDGED

This year will be remembered for a dramatic fall in real (inflation-adjusted) bond yields, and a massive diversification of US savings into European — not least UK — bonds. About half the fall in nominal yields reflects lower real yields.

For real yields to fall, the supply of savings has to shift relative to demand for finance. Hence, if demand for finance has not changed significantly, the conclusion is that most of the fall has been caused by a change in savings flows. Most of the saving appears to have been done not by households but by companies, which have reacted to sharper competition by cutting costs, retaining earnings and investing less. If this does not change, real yields have further to fall.

Historical American and UK data indicate that the long-term average real return on government bonds has been less than 3 per cent, or even less than 2 per cent, depending on the method of calculation. Germany, however, which has not suffered as much from inflation volatility, may provide a better guide: its long-term average real bond yield is just over 4 per cent. This indicates that lower yield levels may prove unsustainable.

In 1994, global demand for finance could pick up as recovery gathers momentum during the second half. Hence, a turning-point in the real interest-rate cycle would constrain progress in the gilt market.

As for diversification of US funds, overseas bonds and

differential made hedging costs worth paying.

The situation now is different. The dollar is, if anything, likely to appreciate and relative hedging costs make European bond exposure for US investors less attractive. This may favour equities. Diversification will probably continue, but on a smaller scale; nor will sterling bonds be particularly favoured.

The attraction of gilts for domestic clients rests heavily on the idea that real yields can fall further. The betting is that they will, at least during the early months of the new year. But if economic growth is faster, and demand for finance more pronounced than expected, further real yield reduction will be limited.

MICHAEL HUGHES  
Barclays de Zeeuw

## WALL STREET

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MICHAEL HUGHES  
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# Hunt leads from the front in battle to win more jobs

Philip Bassett says  
Employment Secretary  
David Hunt has taken  
a robust approach to  
one of the most difficult  
jobs in government

Hasly taped to the third-floor wall opposite the lift inside the Department of Employment's London headquarters is a hand-written notice saying: "Fundamental Review Meeting, this way".

Which way the Government will go in its back-to-basics review of its operations — now, after social benefits, to turn its searchlight on employment measures, including spending on unemployment help programmes, training and job schemes — is likely to be decisive not just in terms of the Conservatives' electoral fortunes but also in terms of establishing a sustained economic recovery.

A few floors up from where the Employment Department's fundamental review group is gathering, David Hunt, the Secretary of State for Employment, is unfazed by the what-do-we-do-ANY-of-this-for critique of the review.

Rejecting the idea that with unemployment still high, though falling, a review in the jobs area is in any way inappropriate, he says: "I welcome the opportunity. There are no specific guidelines before we start. We want to examine all the areas of our work. I hope that the review will show this is a value-for-money department."

What will be difficult for the review is fitting radical critiques of the Government's employment operations and what Mr Hunt describes as a highly active current United Kingdom labour market with "tremendous turnover" of people going on within it.

In an interview with *The Times* ranging across the scope of his department's work, Mr Hunt is characteristically positive — especially about the present state of the labour market in the United Kingdom, and particularly of unemployment.

Unusually for someone in his seat, Mr Hunt was brave enough when he started the job to declare that unemployment was too high and he wanted to see it come down permanently.

Most employment secretaries have been rightly chary of making such pronouncements, but whether by luck or judgment, unemployment has come down while Mr Hunt has been at the Department of Employment — and he's still saying it.

"Unemployment is falling," he says. "At the start of 1993 most commentators were predicting a rise in unemployment through 3 million up to 4 million. 3.5 million was generally expected."

Instead, he says, the year is ending with more jobs and almost 180,000 fewer people out of work.

When asked whether he was surprised by the scale of the fall in unemployment, he cannot answer in words, concerned lest he should be seen to be complacent about the jobless downturn — but he manages to nod agreement.

He is careful to give warning though, that although he believes the downward trend is now clear, there could well still be months to come in which the figures could blip up again. Unemployment, even when falling, is still a politically-sensitive issue.

Though unemployment inevitably attracts the attention when the labour market is examined, Mr Hunt is keen



David Hunt wants to fight the red tape of employment regulations

to emphasise the fluidity and flexibility of the whole of the employment field, not just those out of work, cataloguing new jobs created, the numbers moving back into work, Britain's better record against many of its European Union partners.

He cites small and medium-sized enterprises as the areas where job activity is now genuinely under way. But even with such claimed labour market activity, Mr Hunt is keen to get the latest of his department's tradi-

grammes in both traditional and non-traditional areas for apprentice work. Revelling in the "positive reactions" the apprenticeship idea has engendered, he denies that it is little more than a repackaging of current measures, a reshuffling of the pack, though he accepts that "apprenticeship" is a "significant word with employers and young people and their parents" — a great deal more significant, certainly, than NVQ Level 3, about which few, understandably, have a clue.

**He was brave enough when he started to declare that unemployment was too high and he wanted it to come down permanently**

al products — a long string of job and training schemes — off the Budget drawing board where they were announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and into practice.

Mr Hunt's clear favourite, and a notion he has championed for some time, is the Government's new apprenticeship proposals, under which employers and trainees will reach individual training compacts using Government-funded training credits to set in place work-based training pro-

grammes in both traditional and non-traditional areas for apprentice work. Revelling in the "positive reactions" the apprenticeship idea has engendered, he denies that it is little more than a repackaging of current measures, a reshuffling of the pack, though he accepts that "apprenticeship" is a "significant word with employers and young people and their parents" — a great deal more significant, certainly, than NVQ Level 3, about which few, understandably, have a clue.

Significantly, he acknowledges too that one of the principal reasons why the word "apprenticeship" has such resonance, is that it is directly linked in people's minds with a job — that one traditionally led to the other.

"I wouldn't disagree with that," Mr Hunt says, "and that is why I want to see a specific apprenticeship contract. There is a gap — a skills gap, and there are going to be jobs available, and we have to move to fill that gap."

The reaction to the Budget's other jobs

measure — the JobSeeker's Allowance, which will cut non-means tested unemployment benefit from 12 to six months — was unsurprisingly less warm than the response to apprenticeships.

Mr Hunt accepts there was an "initial misunderstanding" that the new scheme was to come in immediately, rather than its planned introduction date of spring 1996, but claims that when the clarity of the new scheme is recognised, its value will become apparent.

He rejects the argument that employees' already-paid national insurance contributions entitle them to the benefit as it now stands, arguing in return that people now accept that such contributions are not like bank deposits for themselves in the future, but are there to fund current benefit spending — though he accepts that the need to reduce public expenditure was the primary motivation behind the JobSeeker's Allowance. He denies too that the scheme itself will have any significant impact on the monthly unemployment figures.

Mr Hunt starts 1994 rather buoyed up by the less overtly regulatory stance on jobs signalled by the European Commission in its recent White Paper, and believes that its tone both markedly reflected the United Kingdom's preference for a more flexible, less regulated labour market and that the forthcoming EC Green Paper on future European employment law from Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs commissioner, will mark a similar shift away from the firmly regulatory approach.

He is hopeful, too, that the G7 summit on unemployment called for by President Clinton and now set for mid-March, to which the Tory left triumvirate of Mr Clarke, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, and himself, the heads of the three key economic ministries, will be going, will strike a similar tone.

"The particular issues we want to see addressed are 1) identifying and then abolishing regulations which harm employment, 2) reducing the costs of employment and 3) encouraging incentives to work such as flexible working hours and the improvement of skills."

He denies that the UK is out of step not just with the EC but with the more regulatory-minded US under Robert Reich, its Labor Secretary. "We will be wanting to talk to Reich and his colleagues to find out as much information as we can about where and how their new jobs have come from."

In any case, he says, any emphasis in the United States on greater regulation of the labour market starts from a greatly lower regulatory base than in the United Kingdom. Any currently projected moves to greater regulation in the United States will still not pull America up to the United Kingdom's regulatory level — though he explicitly denies having as even a long-term objective a completely-deregulated labour market here.

Unusually, he accepts some of the arguments that the more flexible labour market he does want to see has a downside, and that even with unemployment falling, people are still fearful about job security, but that is to be expected as we emerge from recession," he says.

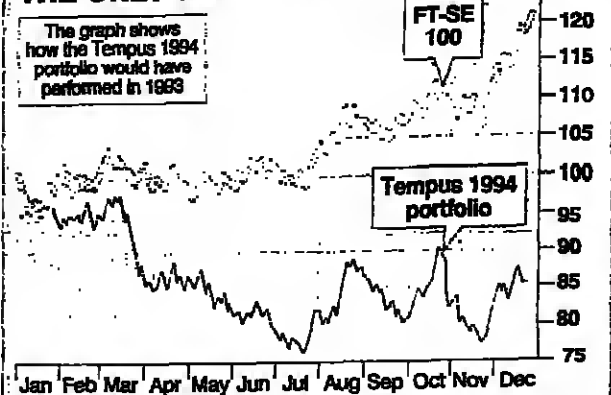
But with eight monthly unemployment drops out of the last 12 under his belt, he remains confident about the future.

He predicts: "1994 will see fewer people unemployed, and more people in work." If that is anything like right, then it will be a good year for any employment secretary — and Mr Hunt will ensure he will be no exception.

## TEMPUS

### Choosing shares that fly in face of fashion

THE ONLY WAY IS UP



Investing in shares is always daunting, but never more so when the market stands at a record high and many share prices are anticipating a recovery in corporate profits two or even three years away.

Nevertheless, the market is ending 1993 with no sign of running out of steam. Strong institutional cashflow is creating a shortage of shares — since there are few sellers — and squeezing prices higher.

No matter how high the market rises, there are always people in the City predicting it has further to go. Goldman Sachs now claims "fair value" for the FT-SE 100 index is 3,900 and will be 4,150 by the end of the year since shares are cheap against gilts.

Certainly, 1994 looks likely to be another year in which the markets are dominated by interest rates. The stock market is already anticipating another half point cut in the base rate, which some thought would come before Christmas. If rates fall as low as 4 per cent by mid-year, share prices should continue to climb, since the yield on the FT-SE 100 index is still almost 3.5 per cent.

Conversely, interest rates pose the greatest threat to the market. If US rates begin to rise, share prices on Wall Street will drop sharply. The London market is still linked closely with Wall Street, and could not avoid falling in sympathy as it did in 1987.

On an individual basis, companies cannot afford to disappoint the City in 1994. Their share prices have been fuelled by recovery hopes, and any company that admits its recovery has faltered or is taking longer than originally expected will be knocked back hard.

#### 1994 Tempus portfolio

AT the start of every year, Tempus selects six stocks that it believes will outperform the market in the next 12 months. It is an unrealistic exercise, since no share portfolio can or should be rolled up in a single year — tax and brokerage costs alone would prevent it. Nevertheless, it offers a chance to track our performance.

This year, we have selected a recovery portfolio of stocks that have fallen out of favour in the past year. As the chart shows, this portfolio would have been a disaster if it had been held during 1993, falling 15 per cent against a 20 per cent rise in the FT-SE 100 index. We have also picked relatively high-yield shares that should benefit from any rate cuts but could also be cushioned in any overall market downturn.

The first stock on the list is

British Gas. The shares fell sharply when Michael Heseltine announced before Christmas he was opening the gas market to competition from 1996. The City is worried that profits will be under pressure from independent gas suppliers and that this will leave the dividend exposed, since cover is only 1.5 times. But if BG's plans to cut a third of its workforce succeed, annual costs could be £600 million lower by 1996. If the group takes a huge provision in its full year figures in February to cover the costs of reorganisation, the City could begin to appreciate its potential. Until then, the shares look cheap on a yield of 5.5 per cent.

Shares in Bass have fallen 12 per cent this year, despite the rise of the brewing sector after the Budget. Doubts remain about the group's cash generating ability, particularly while the beer market continues to decline. But the continuing improvement in consumer spending would ease pressure on its revenues and improve the outlook at its Holiday Inn hotels. The shares trade on less than 14 times current year forecasts.

Food retailing was the worst performer of 1993 according to Datastream, the financial information service, falling a fifth as the supermarkets began to cut prices suffering pressure on gross margins for the first time in living memory. Fears of saturation have re-emerged with the expansion of the continental discount chains. But it will take a great deal of price cutting before a market leader like Tesco feels too much pain and it offers an attractive 4.5 per cent yield for the year just ending.

Pharmaceuticals was an

other unfashionable sector in 1993. Investors were scared by a series of concerns such as the US healthcare reforms. Wellcome was hardest hit, becoming the worst performer in the FT-SE 100 index, after being tenth worst in 1992. The growth in sales of Zovirax, Wellcome's anti-herpes drug, is slowing and Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, does not have the promise the City once anticipated. But the group is still a world leader in anti-viral medicine and offers solid growth prospects. The shares look oversold on 13 times earnings.

The fifth company in the selection is Williams Holdings. Conglomerates are also out of fashion, but Williams is trying to reinvent itself as a home improvements group. If it succeeds, it should profit from a recovery in the housing market. The group looks poised for an acquisition that could reawaken interest.

No portfolio is complete without a penny share, and ours this year is Babcock International at 29½p. The engineering group has had a rough year, culminating in a £9.2 million loss for the half year to September, after big provisions. But a new chief executive is trying to turn the group round and make the most of a healthy order book. The group manages the Rosyth royal dockyard in Scotland, due to be privatised. The shares could bounce if Babcock's bid is successful and it inherits the dockyard with a guaranteed workload.

Finally, one that must exclude widows and orphans. Bears who do not mind staking all on a high-risk venture might like to take out some insurance with the market trading so high. The best way of profiting from a falling market is to buy a FT-SE 100 put option through Life, the futures and options exchange. A December 1994 put option against the index falling below 3,200 would cost about £940 per contract. But remember, options are high risk-high reward investments and anyone trading in them could, and must be prepared, to lose all.

Prices are at close of business on Christmas Eve

NEIL BENNETT  
Tempus editor

Prices are at close of business on Christmas Eve

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Tempus editor

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Finding a match for Hatch in '94

AS THE new year dawns, it is time to reflect on a saga of romance at Ludgate, the financial PR firm tucked away behind Smithfield meat market in central London. Nearly everyone who joins Ludgate seems to get married, take exotic honeymoons, and (sometimes) leave. This year alone has seen two weddings and one engagement, with Margie Welch, daughter of Sir John, the former Lord Mayor, marrying Anthony Jervoise, jetting off to Africa and the Seychelles, and now happily residing in Devon. Caroline Eccles, now with an American stockbroking firm, is engaged to marry an insurance broker. Claire Jowett, known to be accident-prone — she broke her toe trying on a shoe, and nearly got squashed by a level-crossing barrier on a trip to America — married a doctor in September, and works for Glaxo. Digging deeper into Ludgate's history, one recalls Nick Kirkpatrick, who rowed his bride across a lake before honeymooning in the South Pacific; Tom Hiscocks, who married the office cook; and Simon Robinson, who wed the receptionist. All eyes are now on Louise Hatch — still at

Ludgate and still single — who will be fighting off the admirers in 1994.

### Travel costs

MANY large American firms are spending millions on travel without realising it. A survey of 228 senior executives found that 40 per cent of them did not know how much their companies had spent on travel this year. Eli Lilly, the drugs group, spent \$75 million on travel, entertainment and meetings in 1992, and has taken drastic measures to reduce its bill. Executives fly economy rather than business class to Europe, and stay at medium-priced hotels — slashing costs by a quarter so far. The way things are going, business trips could become a thing of the past. Some firms are experimenting with video-conferencing as a way of cutting out travel altogether.

ONLY in America... A dental centre has opened in Hesperia, California, calling itself "The Filling Station".

### Charitable works

IT IS the season of goodwill, and City money has been flooding to needy causes. In a fine effort, Wood Gundy, the stockbroker owned by Canadian

Imperial Bank of Commerce, raised more than £225,000 (£112,500) in a single day towards helping children in the former Yugoslavia. The funds have been donated to Children in Crisis, for the purchase of medical equipment to be sent to paediatric departments in hospitals in Split and Mostar. Keeping up the good work, InterCapital, the London derivatives broker, stumped up £228,195 to be shared by Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières. Glaxo, the drugs group, provided nearly half a million pounds for Centrepont, the charity for London's homeless that has the Princess of Wales as patron. Some of the money has

been put towards a refuge for children and young people. MEPC, the property company, has pledged £100,000 to Centrepont, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

### Heading out

FANCY a few marketing tips from Paul Gascoigne? Or how about some slick economics footwork from Gary Lineker? Reasoning that many footballers' careers are over by the time they reach their mid-thirties, the Professional Footballers' Association is giving its 2,400 members the chance to train for a certificate in marketing. The Chartered Institute of Marketing course

provides an insight into economics, business law and much more besides. Meanwhile, a set of airbrush portraits of soccer greats is being offered to the bank or stockbroker looking for a little extra colour in their lobbies. Norman Mackenzie, who produced the work, thinks the pictures would go down well in an atrium or glazed walkway. He can be reached on (081) 558 5105.

### Helping hand

FERDINAND Piëch has not had a good maiden year at the helm of Volkswagen, at least not where making money on cars is concerned. All very well to blame Seat, VW's Spanish arm, for the bulk of the DM2.3 billion group loss now expected, but being that much in the red makes carmaking look a costly business. And VW knows that there are ways of making profits. A glad tidings for Herr Piëch has come from VW's own financial arm, VAG Bank, which has witnessed a dramatic surge in customer deposits this year. Customers have increased by 35 per cent to 122,000, almost tripling deposits on credit card accounts to DM630 million. Vorsprung durch Deuschmark.

JON ASHWORTH





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grado 1°

**7.00** **Ulysses 31** Animation (I) (2364271) **7.25** **Spiff and Hercules** (2350078) **7.50** **Dennis** Animation (2763417)

**8.00** **The Big Breakfast** (39146)

**10.00** **Saved by the Bell** American teenage comedy (I) (32223) **10.30** **The Lone Ranger** (b/w) Classic western adventures (48287)

**11.00** **Strangers in the Night** (5304894) **11.25** **Michelangelo** Animation (8475604)

**11.30** **Profiles of Nature** The first hours in the life of many new animals, filmed by Walter and Myrna Bieri (I) (40287)

**12.30** **Sesame Street** Pre-school learning series (12097)

**1.20** **Julie** Julie Andrews is left in charge of an orphan (I) (76504)

**2.00** **FILM: Girl Shy** (1924, b/w). Another in the season of silent comedy classics with Harold Lloyd. He plays a bashful young man who goes to the city to try to land a book he has written on love-making. Directed by Fred Newmeyer and Sam Taylor (120707)

**3.40** **Mirage** Film short about a thirsty man who finds a drink dispenser in the desert (1623436)

**3.45** **[CHOICE]** **Robert Mitchum - the Reluctant Star** (I) (Teletext) (8331945)

**4.55** **Big Apple Tinseltown** Writers Fred Tuken and Jerome Charyn reminisce about their childhood in the Bronx area of New York (Teletext) (8599146)

**5.10** **Oprah Winfrey** Oprah wins a couple with five children and offers to babysit while they have the night off (Teletext) (83794962)

**5.00** **Mork and Mindy** Mork falls in with a gang of rascals (I) (542)

**5.30** **A Different World** A new series of the comedy series set on an American college campus (S) (894)

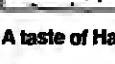
**5.40** **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) and weather (168185)

**5.50** **Tall Stories** Jack Brod talks about the Empire State Building, his home since it opened in 1931 (Teletext) (313813)

**6.00** **Brookside** Anna's worst nightmare is about to become reality while Kate and Simon take the plunge. (Teletext) (S) (2726)



**ers get**



**A taste of Harry Connick Jr in concert (8.30pm)**

**3.30 Harry Connick Jr.** The New Orleans singer in concert at New York's Paramount Theater (s) (43455)

**3.30 CHOICE Who Deal?** (Teletext) (97097)

**4.00 The Golden Girls: Bringing Up Baby.** American comedy series (67368)

**4.30 Seinfeld.** Series. First episode of the comedy with Sean Hughes (s) (43739)

**4.00 Hookers, Hustlers and Pimps.** Director Bebban Kidron takes a personal look at prostitution in New York. (Teletext) (s) (401707)

**4.35am Desperately Seeking Roger.** Julian Clary goes to New York in search of his hero, Roger Whittaker the rock singer. En route, he meets Eartha Kitt, Brooke Shields and Oliver O'App (s) (11956)

**4.40 FILM: Duck Soup** (1833, b/w). The Marx Brothers on top form. Groucho is Rufus T. Firefly, the prime minister of Freedonia, who plunges his country into war with neighbouring Sylvania when he insults their ambassador. Harpo and Chico add to the fun as double agents. Directed by Leo McCarey (6539160)

**5.00 The American.** American television drama series (s) (9745082). Ends at 3.45

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## Full employment is the Government's goal, says Hunt

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ALL Conservative employment secretaries see full employment as their goal, said David Hunt, Employment Secretary.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hunt said "it is the goal of every employment secretary, and every Conservative employment secretary, to see full employment." He is sceptical, though,

about the practical value of such terms, pointing out that even those who supported the notion — essentially, the idea that work should be available to all who want it — had sometimes sharply differing views about what it meant, let alone its practical applicability.

Mr Hunt says that the idea of full employment is particularly inappropriate for the economy when it is combined with what he describes as "job-destructive

policies" such as Labour's support for a statutory national minimum wage and compulsory works councils.

He defined his goal of full employment as threefold: "Firstly, to get unacceptable levels of unemployment down permanently; secondly, to continue to improve the quality of training; and thirdly, to increase the skills of the existing workforce." He added: "Everybody knows what we are talking about when we

say full employment, and therefore everybody knows what we mean and the standard by which we can be judged."

Stressing the fact that unemployment has fallen in 1993 against almost universal predictions that it would rise to 3.5 million and beyond, Mr Hunt said instead the year has ended with more jobs being created and unemployment down to 2.8 million. While he refuses to give any predictions about the level of unemployment

in the new year, he said the evidence is that unemployment is now going down and is set to continue to do so. "The independent advice we have within the Department (of Employment) is that unemployment is on a downward trend" — though he says the trend decline is "not as high" as last month's fall of 36,100 in the seasonally-adjusted number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

But he forecasts 1994 will see more

people in work. Looking forward to the G7 unemployment summit called for by President Clinton, now set for March, Mr Hunt said he would like to see Britain's stress on more flexible labour markets — which he and other economic ministers regard as a key cause of the fall in UK unemployment — adopted more widely.

Optimistic forecast, page 1  
Leading from front, page 30

## George backs banks over small firms

By Patricia Teahan  
BANKING  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has dismissed allegations that Britain's clearing banks failed to support small businesses during the recession. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, called in senior executives of the clearing banks in September to discuss small firms' complaints that banks had been too quick to withdraw lending facilities from companies in trouble.

Since then, the Bank has conducted a three-month investigation. It has produced a draft copy of its findings and hopes to publish a statement of principle in the middle of next month. The draft has been circulated to clearing banks, to small business groups and to the Trade Department. Its only serious criticism of the banks is that they did not communicate well with small businesses.

The findings were discussed at a meeting with senior bank executives, small business representatives and DTI officials at the beginning of the month. But no agreement was

■ Communication is the main problem between banks and small businesses, according to a draft report being circulated by the Bank of England

reached on a statement of principle, to be used as a guideline for lending to small firms.

The Bank's findings are sure to disappoint small business lobby groups, including the Federation of Small Businesses and the Forum of Private Businesses, which have been hoping that Mr George would order a greater flow of funds.

One person close to the discussions said Mr George had recognised that the issue was "very complex and that there is no lending issue, the banks have lots of money to lend". The draft report urges all sides to "work together", as funding of small businesses is difficult and "there is no easy answer". The banks are certain to welcome the findings.

As a result of his investigation, Mr George has recognised the need to address the so-called "equity gap". For the

past year, banks have been expressing concern that too much funding for small businesses comes from loans and overdrafts. This leaves firms exposed to sudden changes in interest rates or in bank lending policies.

Mr George also recognises that late payment of bills threatens small firms' ability to stay in business. Part of the investigation focused on how the Government can change tax policies to help small companies to obtain finance.

Last month's Budget went part of the way to closing the equity gap. An Enterprise Investment Scheme is to be set up, encouraging venture capital investments in small firms by offering income tax relief. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, also proposed a new type of investment trust that will channel savings into unquoted companies.

However, these measures go only part of the way. A Barclays Bank survey of small business attitudes, to be published next month, will show that two thirds of small businesses do not want external equity finance as they want to retain control themselves. The survey also found that 87 per cent of business owners would be prepared to retain more profits in their businesses if it were tax-efficient to do so.

The Bank of England investigated whether clearing bank branch managers restricted lending to small firms because they were determined to stick to strict head office lending guidelines. It also asked whether better training for lending officers would help to improve lending practices.



Eddie George has refused to push for increased lending



"Faithful Annie", an Avro-Anson aircraft built in 1946, being restored at British Aerospace's factory in Cheshire by former employees. They are the only ones with the appropriate skills for renovating the aircraft, which was bought for £600 at auction. Their average age is 75

## Plea-bargain on BCCI criticised

By Our Banking Correspondent

CHARGES against the former head of the National Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia, the country's biggest commercial bank, are to be dismissed by US authorities in a deal in which he and an associate will pay \$225 million.

The plea-bargain between Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, the former chief operating officer of NCB, Haroon Kahlon, a former bank executive, and Robert Morgenthau, the New York district attorney, came in for some fierce criticism yesterday.

Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, who is championing a compensation fight for creditors, urged the Government to ask President Clinton to put an end to deals done

behind the backs of BCCI's worldwide creditors.

Mr Vaz said that the plea-bargain did nothing to advance the hopes of British creditors of BCCI, who remained no better off than they were two-and-a-half years ago, when the bank collapsed.

BCCI's liquidators, from Touche Ross, the firm of accountants, who are suing Sheikh Khalid for \$10.5 billion in America and England said that the US plea-bargain will not affect their action.

Sheikh Khalid and Mr Kahlon had been charged by the US authorities with conspiring to steal more than \$500 million from depositors in BCCI. All charges against Sheikh Khalid have been dropped in the case.

Sheikh Khalid and Mr Kahlon have both agreed to co-operate with the Manhattan district attorney's office and the US Federal Reserve in their ongoing BCCI enquiry.

Mr Morgenthau said: "There are other aspects of the investigation that are being pursued. There may be other indictments against other Americans."

Prosecutors had charged Sheikh Khalid with violating US law by buying 29 per cent of a BCCI subsidiary that controlled a US bank group without obtaining federal clearance. Mr Morgenthau had alleged that by pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into BCCI and then withdrawing it, Sheikh Khalid had worsened the losses when BCCI collapsed.

As a condition of the settlement, \$35 million has been paid to the US Treasury, \$1 million each to the state and city governments. The balance of \$188 million will go into a special reserve fund to settle suits brought by those defrauded in the BCCI scandal.

"The money will be paid out eventually to depositors and creditors of BCCI overseas who were defrauded," James Kindler, the assistant district attorney who prosecuted the case, said. "They are the principal beneficiaries. They will be paid 100 cents on the dollar."

On Christmas Day, an Abu Dhabi government department filed a civil claim worth more than \$1 billion on the basis of criminal charges against 13 former senior executives of BCCI. Eleven defendants attended, while two are being tried in their absence, including Agha Hasan Abedi, the bank's founder. Those in court have pleaded not guilty to criminal charges including dissipating funds and forgery.

## New Taiwan blow for BAe

By Sarah Bagnall

BRITISH Aerospace's hopes of setting up a £250 million venture with the Taiwan Aerospace Corporation were dealt a further setback yesterday when Chiang Pin-Kung, the Taiwanese Economics Minister, said talks were unlikely to resume before June.

Ten months of negotiations between BAe and TAC, 29 per cent owned by the Taiwanese government, to co-build commercial jets ceased two months ago, after they failed to agree terms. Mr Chiang told parliament that negotia-

tions could not resume until his ministry has finished evaluating Taiwan's strategy to develop its fledgling aerospace industry. This is expected by the end of June. TAC is said to be planning to choose new managers to work on the deal in February.

A BAe spokesman said the company was willing to restart negotiations as soon as possible but no meetings or agenda had yet been fixed. "We have maintained contact with TAC in the last two months and we believe that the differences can be resolved. We have had a number

of visits and meetings during which we think we have resolved most of the differences," he said. The problems centre on the RJ regional passenger jets, and the development of an advanced plane, the RJX.

The collapse of the talks had threatened the future of BAe's Avro International regional jets business at Woodford, Cheshire. The spokesman said: "Whether or not the Taiwan deal goes through we will continue to run the Avro business. But we hope we will be able to do this 'through a joint venture'."

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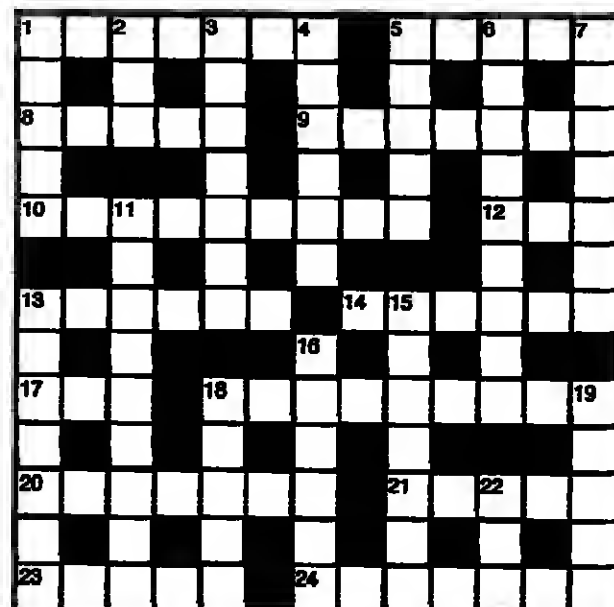
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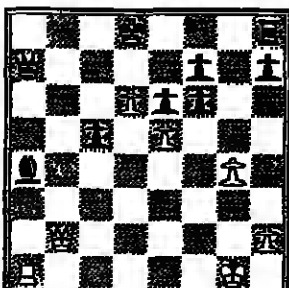
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Just released from Times Books. The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12. £4.25 each.

By Raymond Keene

This position is a possible conclusion of the game Plaskett - Mestel, Hastings Premier 1986/87. How would Plaskett have finished Black off in this position?

This year's Hastings tournament starts today. It will be fully reported in *The Times*.



Solution, page 29  
Raymond Keene, page 6

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 49

### ACROSS

- Origin (7)
- Pink-fleshed tropical fruit (5)
- Greek 'A' (5)
- Having both real and imaginary parts (7)
- Utterly (3,3,3)
- Sticky mess (3)
- Girl's companion for evening (6)
- Spanish parliament (6)
- Atom with abnormal number of electrons (3)
- Place riffs over shoulders (5,4)
- Principal western US watershed (7)
- UAE sheikdom (5)
- City, home of Leonardo's *Last Supper* (5)
- Gland controlling growth (7)

### SOLUTION TO NO 48

- ACROSS: 6 Vantage point 7 Mince 8 Upkeep 9 Hero 10 Deadline 12 Half-life 16 NATO 18 Sculpt 20 Coffee 21 Commensurate
- DOWN: 1 Knock off 2 Ramrod 3 Medusa 4 Cork 5 Unseen 6 Voice 11 Landfill 13 Anchor 14 Intend 15 Eschew 17 Teeth 19 Lime

### DOWN

- Sea-bird fertiliser (5)
- Pinch (3)
- In the works, it causes a hitch (7)
- Area (6)
- Complete range; musical scale (5)
- Dangerous American aquatic reptile (9)
- Worrying (7)
- Concerning a practical point of applied science (9)
- Memorable one-liner (7)
- Time of public access to institution (4,3)
- Tight undergarment (6)
- Young (noble) family member (5)
- Driven high in the air (5)
- Call disapprovingly (3)

By Philip Howard

NITHER  
a. A shepherd's crook  
b. To bring low  
c. Over there

PENNONCEL  
a. A little flag  
b. Once upon a time  
c. A scrivener's knife

DERMESTES  
a. A skin rash  
b. A beetle  
c. Eponym of a clubman

EMBAT  
a. One of the Chiroptera  
b. To engage in battle  
c. An Egyptian wind

Answers on page 29